

BRIEF



A child creates soap bubbles with a toy gun during the 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela, in Faridabad, Sunday.

Quake

Guwahati: An earthquake of 4 magnitude hit the central part of Assam on Sunday, an official bulletin said. There was no immediate report of any loss of life or damage to property, it said. The earthquake was recorded at 4:18 pm, and the epicentre was in Nagaon district on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra river, the National Center for Seismology said in a report.

Tigress dead

Rishikesh: A tigress was found dead in the buffer zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve on Sunday, an official said. The carcass was found in an area close to the Badanghar canal in Almora forest division from where the half eaten body of a woman was recovered on Thursday, Chief Conservator of Forests (Kumaon) Prasanna Kumar Patra said.

Convicts

Mumbai: A court here has convicted nine people for committing a heist of Rs 1.65 crore at a businessman's house by posing as Income Tax officers and sentenced six of them to 10 years' imprisonment and three others to five-year jail term. The crime was "serious in nature," Additional Sessions Judge, Dindoshi court, M I Lokwani said in the order passed on February 1.

Compensation

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government on Sunday a financial aid of Rs 25 lakh will be given to the kin of journalist Shashikant Warishe who was mowed down by an SUV allegedly driven by a land dealer in Ratnagiri district. The government will also give a permanent job to the son of the deceased, Ratnagiri district guardian minister Uday Samant said.

Injured

Thane: Four workers were injured in a fire that broke out at a chemical factory in Maharashtra's Thane district on Sunday afternoon, an official said. The blaze was reported from Badlapur MIDC at 12:50pm and four fire engines from Kulgaoon Municipal Council and Anand Nagar MIDC were deployed for dousing operations, he said.

Watery grave

Haridwar: A 21-year-old IIT Roorkee student drowned in the Ganga here on Sunday while bathing in the river, police said. Siddharth who hailed from Nagaur in Rajasthan was in Haridwar along with other students and a professor for a project, Shyampur police station SHO Vinod Thapliyal said.

Weather
High 31 Low 12

Biswa Bhusan Harichandan appointed 7th Guv of Chh'garh

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

The government on Sunday appointed six new faces as governors, including retired Supreme Court judge S Abdul Nazeer, who was part of the historic 2019 Ayodhya verdict, and four BJP leaders, besides carrying out a rejig of the gubernatorial posts in seven states.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesperson, President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the resignations of Bhagat Singh Koshyari and R K Mathur as the governor of Maharashtra and the lieutenant governor of Ladakh respectively.

Ramesh Bais, who was the governor of Jharkhand, has been appointed governor of Maharashtra, the official said. Koshyari, 80, took charge as Maharashtra governor in September 2019 at a time of a political turmoil in the state following Shiv Sena



Ramesh Bais new Guv of Maha

Ramesh Bais, who was the governor of Jharkhand, has been appointed governor of Maharashtra, the official said. Koshyari, who has been in the line of opposition fire over his remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji, said last month that he had conveyed his desire to quit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that he would like to spend the remainder of his life reading, writing and in other activities.



severing its ties with the BJP. He administered the oath of office to Devendra Fadnavis as the chief minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar as the deputy chief minister, which lasted only three days.

When the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi was in power, he had several run-ins with the government on a range of issues, including the appointment of 12 members to the state legislative council from the gubernatorial quota, which he never approved. The MVA had accused him of acting in a partisan manner.

The latest controversy

surrounding Koshyari was about his remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji, whom he described as the "icon of olden times". The remarks triggered protests from the opposition parties, who de-

Six new Governors

Lakshman Prasad Acharya, C P Radhakrishnan, Shiv Pratap Shukla, Gulab Chand Kataria, Lt Gen Parnaik (retd) and Lt Gen Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik (retd) have been appointed as governors of Sikkim, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Assam respectively.

Anusuiya Uikye shifted to Manipur

Other than Bais, Mishra and Harichandan, the other transfers included the shifting of Anusuiya Uikye from Chhattisgarh to Manipur, La. Ganesan from Manipur to Nagaland, Phagu Chauhan from Bihar to Meghalaya and Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar from Himachal Pradesh to Bihar.

Retired SC Judge new AP Guv

Justice Nazeer, a former Supreme court judge, is appointed as the new governor of Andhra Pradesh. Justice Nazeer, who retired on January 4, has been part of several path-breaking verdicts, including those on the politically sensitive Ayodhya land dispute, instant 'triple talaq' and the one that declared 'right to privacy' a fundamental right.

manded that he be sacked. It was not immediately known what reasons prompted Mathur's resignation. Mathur has been facing stiff opposition led by noted education reformist

Sonam Wangchuk in the three-year-old Union territory. The President appointed Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig B D Mishra (retd) in his place, the spokesperson said.

Literary figure, former minister: Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

Raipur, Feb 12:

Biswabhusan Harichandan (born 3 August 1934) has been appointed as the 7th and current Governor of Chhattisgarh. Biswa Bhusan Harichandan was elected to the Odisha assembly five times — twice from the Chilka assembly constituency, from 1977 to 1980 as a Janata Party candidate and from 1990 to 1994 as a Janata Dal nominee, and thrice as a BJP candidate from the Bhubaneswar assembly segment.

Life and career

Born on August 3, 1934, Harichandan has been a prominent face of non-Congress politics in Odisha. After completing his law degree, he began his career as an advocate and joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1971. He became its national executive member and general secretary of the Odisha unit till the formation of Janata Party in 1977. He was among a few from Odisha detained under the controversial Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) in 1975

Awards

Harichandan was awarded the Kalinga Ratna Award in 2021.

Books

Harichandan has authored several books some of which include Marubataas, Mahasangram Mahanayak, Buxi Jagabandhu, Paika Mutiny and his autobiography Sangarsha Sarinahin.

during the Emergency under then prime minister Indira Gandhi. Harichandan later joined the BJP after its formation and was its Odisha unit president from 1980 to 1988. He switched to Janata Dal when it was formed through the merger of Janata Party factions and some other political parties in 1988. He became the vice-president of the Janata Dal in Odisha for some years before he rejoined BJP in April 1996.

In July 2019, he was appointed the 23rd Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

CJs appointed to 4 HCs; 2 to retire soon

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Four judges, including two who will retire later this month, were on Sunday appointed as chief justices of high courts.

Justice Sonia Giridhar Gokani, the senior-most judge of the Gujarat High Court, was appointed its chief justice. Once she takes oath, she will be the only woman chief justice of a high court at present. India has 25 high courts.

Another woman judge, Justice Sabina, is functioning as the acting chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

However, Justice Gokani will demit office on February 25 upon at-

taining the age of 62. She has been drawn from the judicial service of Gujarat. "Besides being the senior-most judge, the appointment of Justice Gokani as chief justice will bring a sense of inclusion and facilitate a representation for judges drawn from the services in the office of chief justice," the Supreme Court Collegium had said last week while recommending her name.

The Collegium had asked the government to "immediately" appoint her as the chief justice following the elevation of Justice Aravind Kumar, the high court chief justice till now, as a judge of the Supreme Court.

DUTY FIRST Doctors assist in childbirth over WhatsApp call

Srinagar, Feb 12 (PTI):

With snowfall ruling out the possibility of airlift, a pregnant woman who had a history of labour complications in the remote Keran in Jammu and Kashmir was assisted by doctors in delivering a healthy baby over a WhatsApp call.

"On Friday night, we received a patient in labour at the Keran PHC (primary health centre) with history of complicated delivery with eclampsia, prolonged labour and episiotomy," Block Medical Officer of Kralpora Dr Mir Mohammad Shafi said. An air evacuation was required to take the patient to a hospital with maternity facilities as Keran remained cut off from the rest of Kupwara district during the winter.

PM inaugurates Delhi-Mumbai Expressway Phase 1

Dausa, Feb 12 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 246-km section of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Dausa on Sunday.

The Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot stretch is set to reduce the travel time between the national capital and Jaipur considerably.

The PM pressed the button of a remote to mark the foundation laying/inauguration of a total four projects, including the first phase of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, worth more than Rs 18,000 crore.

Modi said when the government invests in highway projects, ports, railways, optical fibre, and



PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot section of Delhi Mumbai Expressway, in Dausa, Sunday.

opens medical colleges, it gives strength to traders, small shopkeepers and industries. "Investment on infrastructure attracts more investment."

Developed at a cost of more than Rs 12,150 crore,

this first completed section of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway will provide a major boost to the economic development of the entire region.

Modi said the new section will reduce the travel

time between Jaipur and Delhi to half.

The PM said those who travel to Delhi for work can now come back to home in the evening after finishing their task. The PM said that rural 'haats' are being developed around the expressway where the local artisans can sell their article.

He said the expressway will benefit the Sariska National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park as well as cities such as Jaipur and Ajmer.

Rajasthan is already known for its tourism sector and the attraction will increase further with the new infrastructure project, the prime minister said.

'India running on tracks of heritage, development'



New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

India is expressing pride over its legacy with tremendous self-respect and is asserting that it will strengthen its traditions while ushering in modernity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday. He also said that the country's policies and efforts have no discrimination, and are aimed at serving the poor, the backwards and the deprived on priority. Modi made the remarks

after inaugurating celebrations commemorating the 200th birth anniversary of social reformer and Arya Samaj founder Dayanand Saraswati. The prime minister also unveiled the logo of the birth anniversary celebrations. Modi said India is showing the way to the world in the field of environment. He also said it was a matter of pride that India was chairing the G20 this year. "The country today with tremendous self respect is expressing pride over its legacy. The country is saying with full self-confidence that we will strengthen our traditions while ushering in modernity," Modi said. The country is running on the tracks of 'virasat (heritage)' and 'vikas (development)', the prime minister said.

SHOWCASING TALENT



Children perform at a cultural programme during the inauguration of the year-long celebrations to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, in New Delhi, Sunday.

GAME-CHANGER

'AI can improve quality of legal practice'

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Artificial intelligence (AI) should not be viewed as a threat, but as an opportunity to enhance the quality of legal practice, Supreme Court judge Hima Kohli



has said, terming it a "game-changer" in the legal field that has the potential to revolutionise the way lawyers work. Justice Kohli, however, flagged ethical concerns about the "accountability, transparency and protection of rights of parties", which may crop up with the use of AI in the legal field.

WORLD RADIO DAY TODAY

'Just tune in, radio's charm persists on simplicity, accessibility'

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

"You had your time, you had the power, you've yet to have, your finest hour; radio" Thirty-nine years after Queen's cult song "Radio Ga Ga" rocked the airwaves, listeners are agreed the best may still be around the corner for that much loved, so familiar and evolving with the times audio device'. Quite simply, the radio.

It was sometime in the 1960s. Nemichand Barola was about 10. And members vividly melodious tunes from Radio Ceylon

playing from a radio in a tiny paan shop in his hometown Ajmer adding to lazy afternoon vibes. Some decades later, Barola, now a retired school principal, still prefers radio over television and turns to it for an odd little melody from his younger days and the essential news broadcast from an All India Radio channel.

"Radio doesn't disturb me when I am writing or doing any work, it is not possible with TV or mobile phones. I don't have to stop my work to listen to the radio," Barola told PTI. It's his connect

from his yesterday to his present, the great societal leveller that binds cities to villages, rich to poor. Once a lifeline to keep in touch with music trends, cricket matches, and the news in distant corners of the country and still a mainstay for many.

On the eve of World Radio Day on Monday, it is the simplicity, reach and accessibility of the medium that still connects the likes of Barola to the old-worldly charm of the radio in an age of innumerable news channels and music streaming services, say experts.

Dhaka, Feb 12 (PTI):

Shahabuddin Chuppu is next B'desh president

M o h a m m a d Shahabuddin Chuppu, a former judge and freedom fighter, is set to become Bangladesh's next president after the ruling Awami League, which holds an absolute majority in Parliament, nominated him for the top post.

Chuppu, 74, will replace President Mohammad Abdul Hamid, whose tenure ends on April 24.

"The Election Commission (EC) has received his (Chuppu's) nomination paper submitted by Bangladesh Awami League," a spokesman of the independent statutory body said. He said the EC



would now accomplish the procedural formalities for his election by Members of Parliament. The Awami League has 305 seats in the 350-member House.

The tenure of Hamid, the longest-serving president of the country, will end on April 23, and according to the Constitution, he cannot hold a third term.

First National Lok Adalat disposes of 16090 cases

Total settlement amount sums up to Rs 10.92 crore

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 12: The first National Lok Adalat of the year 2023 was organized on Saturday. In Durg District, benches were constituted in District Court Durg, Civil Court Bhilai-3 and Civil Court Patan, Juvenile Justice Board, Labour Court and Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services) Durg was formed.

A total of 3136 court cases and a total of 12954 pre-litigation cases were resolved in the National Lok Adalat. The total settlement amount was Rs 10 crore 92 lakh 34 thousand. In the resolved cases, 510 criminal cases, 33 cases of claims, family cases, 102 cases of cheque dishonor, 210 civil cases, 89 cases of Juvenile Justice Board, 89 cases of labour disputes and 157 cases of Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services) were resolved.

In the first National Lok

Benches for Family Court Durg, 24 Benches for District Court Durg, 01 Bench for Tehsil Court Patan, 02 Benches for Tehsil Court Bhilai-3, 01 Bench for Juvenile Justice Board, 01 for Labour Court and 01 Bench for Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services) Durg was formed.

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In the first National Lok

Advocates did not attend proceedings

As per the decision of the District Bar Association, the practicing lawyers of Durg District did not attend the National Lok Adalat. For smooth conduct of the conciliation proceedings, 66 advocates were appointed as members for 33 benches of the Lok Adalat. But most of them remained absent and did not participate in the proceedings. District Bar Association office bearers claimed that not a single case was settled on the day of National Lok Adalat in Durg as the Advocates remained away from the proceedings. However, there were thousands of cases in which the settlement process was conducted in advance. The orders of all these cases were issued during the National Lok Adalat.



Adalat of this year, there were some important cases which were resolved. In a total of 33 motor accident claim cases, the parties were ordered to pay compensation of more than Rs 2 crores.

Before the bench of Sanjeev Kumar Tamak, a land possession dispute was settled through mutual compromise. In pursuance of the notice issued for the National Lok Adalat organized on February 11, two female

neighbours living in Gujarat appeared before the bench of Santosh Thakur. The criminal case was disposed of by mutual compromise. The parties attended the National Lok Adalat through video conferencing.

Before the bench of Tajuddin Asif, the three parties appeared in the proceedings from Tata Memorial Hospital Jamshedpur, Hyderabad and Pune. The case was disposed of through mutual compromise.

Mayor and MLA attend bhoomipujan for dome shed at Kosa Nagar

**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Feb 12: A dome shed will be constructed at a cost of Rs 10 lakhs near Kosa Nagar Rashne Awas, Budh Vihar Complex in Ward No. 5 of Bhilai Municipal Corporation. On Sunday, bhoomipujan was performed by the residents of the locality in the presence of MLA Devendra Yadav, Mayor Neeraj Pal, BMC Speaker Girwar Buntay Sahu, District Congress Committee President Mukesh Chandrakar and MiC member Sandeep Nirankari.

With the construction of the dome shed, the residents of the locality will get convenience for organizing various programs. They will not face difficulties in organizing the event even in rain and scorching sun. It needs to be mentioned here that the locals have been raising the demand for a dome shed in their locality. Local Corporator Sandeep Nirankari made efforts in this direction and got the work approved with the support of Mayor Neeraj Pal. A large number of locals were present at the event.

HSCL issues circular for higher pension option

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 12: Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) has issued a circular on February 10, 2023 informing the employees who retired before November 01, 2014 on attaining the age of 58 years to file application for higher pension.

The eligible Pensioners may apply Digitally / Online at www.epfindia.gov.in for validating their options, if any, by the concerned Regional Office.

The eligible pensioners include the Pensioner, who as employee had contributed under Paragraph 26(6) of EPF Scheme on salary exceeding the prevalent wage ceiling of Rs 5000 or Rs 6500 and Exercised Joint Option under the proviso to Para 11(3) of the Pre-amendment scheme while being member of EPS'95 and Their exercise of such option was declined by PF authorities.

Very recently the form for making applications has been published in

the EPFO website and so all the Pensioners who retired before 01.09.2014 may submit application in that form only Digitally / Online at www.epfindia.gov.in and not manually through self prescribed format. For this purpose the pensioners need to access the UAN Portal of EPFO website.

The Pensioners retiring before 01.09.2014 will make their application only Digitally / Online through the relevant link given in the UAN portal of EPFO website.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 12: A meeting of the Shri Ram Janmotsava Samiti was held on Sunday at Sector 9 to conduct discussion for the preparations of the upcoming Shri Ram Navami Mahaparva. Committee Patron and former Vidhan Sabha Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey called upon all the office bearers and members to celebrate this great festival with enthusiasm.

Various topics were discussed in the meeting including the proposed campaign "Ek Mutthi Dhaan -

Prabhu Shri Ram Ke Naam". Under this campaign, the members of Shri Ram Janmotsava Samiti would reach every household of Steel City and seek donation of a handful of paddy.

Prem Prakash Pandey further said that Shri Ram Navami is a significant festival for all of us. The birth anniversary of Lord Shri Ram is celebrated in a grand manner on this day. Shri Ram Janmotsava will be celebrated for the 38th consecutive year in a grand manner by the Samiti.

Pandey said that every member of the committee



should start making efforts to make this festival a success. They should work to include more and more people with the organization from block and

sub-division level. Youth Wing President Manish Pandey said that the campaign "Ek Mutthi Dhaan, Prabhu Shri Ram ke naam" will be launched

in the first week of the month of March.

For this campaign, meetings will be organized at the Prakhand and Khand level in the coming days and the plan to make it successful and reach the people will be discussed with the members.

Pandey said that on the occasion of Shri Ram Navami, this year the committee has set a target of connecting 51000 members with the committee. In this sequence, a free membership campaign will be run by the committee, as well as every member will be honored with a saffron flag.

Shri Ram Janmotsava Samiti sets target of 51000 members

Divisional Commissioner issues show cause notices to absent officials

Kavre conducts surprise inspection at Forest Department and Water Resources Division

**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Feb 12: Divisional Commissioner Mahadev Kavre conducted a surprise inspection of the Divisional and District Offices of the Forest Department and Water Resources Division the other day. He instructed the officials to remain present in the office during the working hours.

The Divisional

Commissioner first reached the office at 10:30 am, where he reprimanded the employees coming late and gave strict instructions to attend the office during office hours under any circumstances.

He checked the attendance register and found that a total of eight officials including Illurani Dutta, Abhilasha and N Ramakrishna were absent. Show cause notices

were served to them. After this, he inspected the office of Chief Conservator of Forests.

Kavre reached this office around 10:40 am and served show cause notice to 08 absent employees including Vijay Rathore, Maya Dwivedi, Tarun Meshram, Madhu Sharma and Gayatri Verma.

The Divisional Commissioner directed to

keep name plates on the tables of all the employees in the Forest Department office and also directed to keep the information boards of the Public Service Guarantee Act clearly visible.

The Divisional Commissioner inspected the district office of the Water Resources Department. He reached this office around 10:50 am and served show cause no-

tices to 03 employees who were absent. He also instructed all employees to be present at the office during working hours.

The Divisional Commissioner expressed happiness over the department following the instructions given in the last inspection regarding cleanliness and systematic maintenance of files. Similarly, he gave instructions for systematic maintenance of documents in other departments.

Expressing strong displeasure over the absence of officers/employees during inspection in the offices, Divisional Commissioner Kavre reprimanded the concerned office heads and gave them clear instructions to keep control over their subordinates.

Sixth batch of tribal youth departs for Bhubaneswar

**Central Chronicle News**

Bhilai, Jan 12: Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent 20 tribal youth from Kanker for a tour to Bhubaneswar. It is the sixth group of tribal youth sent on tour of other cities under this programme. The group of tribal youth is being accompanied by one female and two male officers / personnel of Border Security Force. BSF is organizing fourteen such tours this

year for about 290 youth. Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process unity in the diversity aspect of our national life. They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educa-

tional and employment opportunities available there. They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage. This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self esteem. IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

Collector inspects under construction projects in Patan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 12: Patan Bus Stand will now be swept at intervals of every two hours. Recently, Collector Pushendra Kumar Meena inspected the bus stand in Patan city. He asked the CMO about the status of sanitation. The CMO replied that cleaning is done once in the morning.

The Collector expressed displeasure on the existing arrangements. He said that a large number of passengers come to Patan bus stand. For the passengers to have a better experience at the bus stand, it is necessary to have good cleanliness. He made a roster of cleaning and instructed

the officials to execute.

He also instructed to issue a notice to the CMO if the cleaning arrangements are not improved. Along with this, a notice was also issued to the engineer and architect for irregularities found in various construction works. It needs to be mentioned here that street vendors were doing business in a haphazard manner in the bus stand.

The Collector asked them to make arrangements like Nehru Nagar vending zone. Due to the better facilities available in the vending zone, the business of these traders will also increase and the customers will also like



the arrangements. Bus stand complex is also being prepared here which has 34 shops.

Some traders were not taking care of cleanliness in the bus stand, on which

the Collector asked the CMO to serve notices to such shopkeepers. District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan and SDM Vipul Gupta were also present. A beautiful auditorium



is being built for entertainment in Patan. With the completion of this 300 seater auditorium, artistic activities will get a boost in Patan. The Collector gave suggestions regard-

ing the auditorium. He said that the distance of the audience gallery from the stage should be increased so that the audience gets a good view of the stage.

Also, he asked to increase the length and height of the stage slightly so that it could be more useful for the audience. He also asked to increase the number of washrooms. He also instructed to make a good system of cooling through tower AC.

The Collector also inspected the Hi-Tech nursery located at Sikola. He asked to plant more saplings of Kadamba, Kachanar and Badam etc so that all the saplings are available from this nursery as per the local requirement for plantation.

The Collector also saw the multipurpose complex. Along with the sports infrastructure, a state-of-

the-art library is also being established here. The Collector said that a good library has a good system of lighting and ventilation. Keep these things in mind while building the library. A swimming pool is also being prepared here to promote the players in swimming.

The Collector said that it should be in line with international standards so that the players can prepare according to this standard and make their place for the competitions held in the country and abroad. The Collector also saw the construction work of the school located in Akhra.

'BJP should get Naxal murder probed by NIA'

- CM on BJP's allegation of conspiracy
- Says we have no objection to probe by any central agency



said that Congress will have no objection if such incidents were probed by central investigation agency like NIA.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who returned from the meeting, spoke to journalists at Raipur helipad. On the question related to BJP's allegations, he said, Naxalites are not denying the incident, are they? Our police was investigating the murder of

Bhima Mandavi, but they sent NIA and does anyone know what came in the NIA report, he questioned.

There is no denying the fact that Bhima Mandavi was killed in Naxal attack and police are investigating into the incident, Baghel said while talking to the reporters in Raipur Helipad after his return from 'Bhent Mulakat' programme. NIA can take up the responsibility of probing the incident, Baghel said. Baghel claimed that Naxalites were resorting to such killings by realising that they became weak. According to him Naxalites have changed their strategy. Earlier they used to attack first but now they are indulging in killing by going to homes. This means that they have lost their strength, he said.

He said that 600 villages were freed from clutches of Naxalites which showed strength of brave jawans. Naxalites have retreated and this is the work and dare of the district and state police and CRPF jawans. At the same time 300 schools have been re-started, which were closed-down during BJP's rule. If one takes a look at the statistics, then one will see that last year lowest number of individuals have got injured or died. At the same time, there are only few incidents of looting of weapons from jawans by the naxalites.

In this way, CM Baghel claimed that it is evident that naxalites have retreated and all this is possible through government's confidence, development and state's security policy.

NSS students of FNGC create public awareness

- On social-economic issues thru folk dance, 'nukkad natak'

Central Chronicle News

Nayapara-Rajim, Feb 12: The folk culture at the dais No. 2-3 of Rajim Maghi Punni Mela was visible today. The Indian Youth Red Cross Society and NSS students from Fankeshwar Nath Govt College, (FNGC) Fingeshwar on the subject of 'better sanitation' staged a public awareness programme here on Sunday.

Under this through cultural programme, 'nukkad natak' and folk dance they created public awareness on social issues, economic problems.

In this a total of 55 NSS workers from the College took part. They gave wonderful performance under guidance of programme officer Devdas Banjare, Asst. Prog Officer Ritesh Golcha,



Mahendra Bharadwaj. The head of NSS Chiteshwar Sahu, Bharti Sahu, Ambika Yadav, Yamini Nishad, Khumeshwar Sahu, Jhumes Kumar, Neha Sahu, Manisha Sahu and others were present. Pursottam Yadav from Banskunda Mahasamund

performed 'Raut Nacha' and enthralled the audience. It is by using ancient instruments viz. 'Nisan', 'Kundungi', 'Dafada', 'Mohari', 'Gudum' that they left an everlasting impression. Prashant Sonwani of Kathouli performed 'Ramayan' and

Uttam Sahu of Dutkaiyya performed folk dance. Jagannath Patel of Rajim presented 'Jasgeet' and Sunita Sahu of Bhavanipur Balodabazar presented 'Pandwani'. The programme was conducted by Manoj Sen, Durgesh Tiwari, Mahendra Panth.

Congress encouraging target killing of BJP workers: BJP



Raipur, Feb 12: Sensing its imminent defeat in forthcoming assembly elections in Chhattisgarh the Congress has resorted to the conspiracy of target killing of BJP workers, said BJP state president Arun Sao. BJP workers are being killed through politicization of the administration and this is not a coincidence, he said while addressing a press conference here today.

targeted under a well-planned conspiracy, he said, adding that 4 workers of BJP have been murdered in the last 30 days. Alleging that such brutal murders are taking place under the patronage of the Congress government he said that Congress remained silent on all such incidents. Realising that it is going out of power Congress indulged in conspiracy of target killing to win elections, he said.

Congress understands that killing of BJP workers in violence will dampen the enthusiasm of BJP workers, said Sao. One murder in Jagdalpur, one in Narayanpur, one in Bijapur and one in Dantewada, an atmosphere of terror is being created everywhere by killings, he said. According to him BJP workers have always laid down their lives for the establishment of peace. 'We are followers of Dr Syama Prasad Mukherjee and we have made sacrifices in Kashmir besides taking historic steps to bring Kashmir on the path of peace and abolish Article 370 and 35A', he said.

The Congress government is conspiring

against the BJP workers on two fronts- on one side, murders are being carried out and on the other BJP workers are being repressed by the police and are being put in jail, he said.

He said that more than a dozen BJP leaders and workers were sent to jail in Narayanpur, on false charges against them for opposing conversion under government patronage. But BJP workers are strongly fighting the excesses of this cowardly government, he said. Party's State General Secretary OP Choudhary, State Media Incharge Amit Chimmami and State Co-Media Incharge Anurag Agrawal were present in the press conference.

Yadav samaj takes out massive 'Hunkar Rally'

Raipur, Feb 12: Recalling the sacrifices of martyrs and paying rich tributes to them at Shaheed Smarak Bhavan, Raipur, it was under leadership of Padamshri recipient Phulbasan Yadav, social worker and patron CG Pragatisheel Yadav Mahasangh (CGPYM) Avadh Narayan Yadav, Nirmala Yadav, ex-Mayor Bhilai that hundreds of members of Yadav Samaj took out a massive 'Yadav Hunkar Rally' here on Saturday.

The main convener of 'Yadav Hunkar Rally' and Sr. V.P. CGPYM Shobha Yadav informed that it is after sidelining of the principle of 'one's share and equal representation' by the state government and the district administration, the members of Yadav Samaj are very much annoyed. She informed that with around 22-23 lakh Yadav population in Chhattisgarh, it accounts to around 11-12% of entire pop-



ulation and due to sidelining by the state government it has hurt their sentiments. As a result of which the members of Yadav Samaj took out 'Yadav Hunkar rally' to awaken the government for social justice and termed it just as a beginning. General secretary Niranjan Singh Yadav informed that as & when the pride and prestige of Yadav Samaj has been hurt, till then the 'vanshajs' of Lord

Krishna have exhibited their dare and courage and with organisational ability and uniting together, they have come forward to save their prestige. Terming this 'Hunkar Rally', just as a trailer, he made a declaration of taking out a massive 'Shobha Yatra' on occasion of 'avatara diwas' of 'Ishtdev' of Yadav Samaj-Lord Shri Krishna celebrated as Krishna Janmashtami in Sept 2023.

Media in-charge Srikant Yadav informed that removing personal differences and walking foot-to-foot, more than 20 organisations of Yadav Samaj in Chhattisgarh came under one banner and actively participated in this rally from Durg and Bhilai district as well. To make this programme successful, Brigadier Jitendra Bahadur Yadav (Retd.), Pradeep Yadav, Ravindra Singh Yadav, Dy. Gen. Secy, Rajesh Yadav, Asst. Gen. Secy, Principal Secy. Ashok Yadav, V.P. Shashikant Yadav, Kamal Singh Yadav, Secy. Sujeet Singh, Ajay Yadav, Ramkumar Yadav, Dr. Nagendra Yadav, Treasurer Mukesh Yadu, PR in-charge Dev Yadav, Hemant Yadav, cultural secy. Smita Rajneesh Yadav, Sweety Jeewan Thethwar played an important role in making this 'Hunkar rally' a grand success.

Employment Exchange to organize placement camp today

Raipur, Feb 12: A placement camp will be organized by the District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center on February 13 to provide employment to the local educated unemployed youth of Chhattisgarh state.

8000 to Rs 30000 per month for these posts.

Similarly, Vision India Service Pvt. Ltd. will conduct recruitment on more than 50 posts of student trainees for Suzuki Motors Gujarat's Hansalpur, Becharaji, Ahmedabad plant on a stipend of Rs 11,000 per month (as per terms and conditions). Candidates with qualification of 10th pass with minimum 50 percent marks will be recruited under 02 years training programme. Applicants who are eligible and willing to attend the placement camp can appear on the scheduled date and venue along with their educational, technical qualification, experience certificate and resume.

Amarinder Singh Vama pays courtesy call to CM

- Won a bronze medal in Dubai Pro-International Body Building competition

Raipur, Feb 12: Amarinder Singh Vama, bronze medalist in the Dubai Pro-International Body Building Competition, met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today at the Police Line Helipad in the capital city Raipur. The Chief Minister congratulated Amarinder on his accomplishment and wished him success in the future.

On this occasion, Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahariya, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Kuldeep Juneja, Councilor Kamran



Ansari, Amarinder's father-Govinder Singh and mother Satwant Kaur were also present. Significantly, the IABB

Pro-International Body Building Competition was organised in Dubai from Oct-24 to 26, 2022, in which 700 participants

from 35 to 40 countries took part. Amarinder Singh has won a bronze medal representing India in the competition.

CM Baghel pays courtesy call on Governor



- Congratulates her on being appointed as the Governor of Manipur

Raipur, Feb 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met Governor Anusuiya Uikey in Raj Bhavan today and extended hearty con-

gratulations and best wishes to her on being appointed as the Governor of Manipur. Chief Minister Baghel expressed his gratitude to Anusuiya Uikey for her cooperation in the development of Chhattisgarh state as the constitutional head of the state.

Western Rly, Mumbai wins 8-0 against DHA, R'gaon

Ensures berth in the quarter finals

NCR Allahabad defeated BSF, Jalandhar in penalty shoot-out by 5-3



Force (BSF) Jalandhar and NCR Allahabad, the later reached quarter finals defeated BSF by 5-3 in the penalty shootout.

On the fifth day of the 79th Mahanat Raja Sarveshwar Das All India Hockey Tournament being played on the astroturf of Digvijay Stadium in Rajnandgaon, it was a disappointing day for

the host team i.e District Hockey Association (DHA) Rajnandgaon, as they were defeated by Western Railway, Mumbai by 8-0. With good attack and coordination by the Western Railway, the DHS R'gaon appeared to be weak. In the first half of the match itself, the players of Western Railway, Mumbai were dominating and in the 6th minute

itself, Irshad Mirza scored the first goal, followed by second in the 9th minute by the captain- Amit Gaur and by the 13th and 30th minute, Rajin Kundela by scoring two goals got a lead of 4-0 to Mumbai's team and which remained intact till the completion of first-half. In the second-half, the attacking team of Western Railway

Tomorrow's matches

1. BRC Danapur V/s SAIL Academy Rourkela at 1:00 pm
2. SAI Excellency Centre Lucknow V/s SAI Hostel, Sundergarh at 2:30 pm
3. Petroleum Sports, Petroleum Board New Delhi V/s Railway Mumbai at 4:00 pm.

Mumbai continued its attack on 'D' of DHS R'gaon and it was in the 36th minute K Suresh Singh, Shubham Singh in the 43rd minute and Irshad Khan in the 54th minute scored a goal and took their team ahead with lead of 8-0 and secured berth for them in the quarter finals.

Meanwhile in the second match, the NCR Allahabad

with good experience and dominance, played an interesting match with BSF Jalandhar.

With both the teams playing equally well in the first, second and third quarter of the match, it remained a tie with no goals. But it was in the penalty corner at the 56th minute to Allahabad team, the ball struck the leg of the player of BSF Jalandhar team and they got a penalty stroke in the 57th minute. In this Ravi scored a goal for Allahabad team and got a lead of 1-0. But just in the 59th minute, Darshpreet Singh of BSF scored a wonderful goal and took the score to 1-1 each. This situation remained till the end of the game and final decision was to be taken through penalty shootout. In this

Ravi, Swarna Khandekar, Abhay Kumar, Prabhjot Singh of NCR and Naveen K Tirki, Javed Ansari of BSF only can score a goal and due

to which NCR Allahabad won the penalty shoot-out with 4-2 and with initial score of 1-1, they won with 5-3.

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Conference on 'Biomedical Engineering Science and Technology' held

Raipur, Feb 12:

National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Department of Biomedical Engineering organized the second two-day international conference on "Biomedical Engineering Science and Technology: Roadway from Laboratory to Market" (ICBEST 2023) on 10th and 11th February 2023 in hybrid mode. The aim of the event was to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and professionals from the industry and the academia to share their research trends, findings, and results.

First keynote speaker Professor Guoan Zheng

from the University of Connecticut, USA, delivered his expertise of Coded Ptychography. Second keynote speaker Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Mahto, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi in his speech, address about importance of three-dimensional microenvironment for cell proliferation, migration and growth over two-dimensional. He further highlighted about electro spun nanofibers which mimics the human extracellular matrix. He illustrated his research on fabrication of silk fibroin-based nanofibers as dressing material for wound

healing applications.

Day two witnessed the valedictory session with Dr. Bikesh K. Singh summarizing the two-day conference. Dr. Narendra Kuber Bodhey, Professor, Department of Radio Diagnosis, AIIMS Raipur was present as Chief Guest for the session. He expatiated about the work being done in the field and congratulated the organizing committee for the successful organization of the conference. The best research papers that were selected in the conference were that of NP Guhan Seshadri, Dr. Lipismita Panigrahi, Anway S. Pimpalkar, Ms. Katinder Kaur, Dr. Pushpa Giri, and Vandana Nilesh Pagar.

The conference was open for all academicians, research scholars, post-doctorate, post-graduates, and under-graduate students functioning in the field of biomedical engineering, and it served as a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners, and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered, and solutions adopted in the field. More than 80 participants as in scientists, engineers, and academicians from India and abroad attended the conference, with at least 35 technical presentations scheduled.

Huge crowd throng Maghi Punni Mela



● Long queue of vehicles upto 2 kms on Raipur, Gariyaband and Mahasamund route

Nayapara-Rajim, Feb 12: There was huge crowd at the ongoing Maghi Punni Mela in Rajim on Sunday

and it turned to be out of control as well. Everywhere there was huge rush of devotees and people found it very difficult to reach upto the venue and there was a long queue of about 2 km of vehicles from Rajim to Gariyaband, Mahasamund and Raipur



route and this lasted for hours. The traffic and district police also seemed to be helpless in handling such huge crowd and line of vehicles and by afternoon the rush was at its peak.

Since it happened to be a Sunday, the devotees thronged Rajim Maghi Punni Mela and also to offer obeisance at Shri Rajiv Lochan, Shri Kuleshwar Mahadev mandir. This rush was there till 9:00 in the night.

It is notable here that Rajim Maghi Punni mela started on Feb 5 taking a Holy Dip at the confluence of three rivers in Rajim and by even CM Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the Maghi Punni Mela. The Mela would conclude on Feb 18 on occasion of Mahashivratri. As such this 'mela' would continue for three days after the Mahashivratri as well, as people come to visit and enjoy in the Fair even after the scheduled period.

Man arrested with two stolen mobile phones

Raipur, Feb 12: Police have arrested a person in connection with incidents of looting mobile phones from people in Urla area. Two stolen mobile phones were recovered from possession of the suspect.

The action of police came after one Rohit Kumar Yadav lodged complaint with Urla Police Station that an unidentified person looted two mobile phones from him when he was going to Savaria Rice Mill from Sarora via Ganesh Dhaba on February 9 morning at around 8 am. Rohit works in Savaria Rice Mill Gogaon and resides in the nearby

quarter. While on way to Savaria Rice Mill he was intercepted by unidentified person who snatched two mobile phones from him by intimidating him of life. On his complaint the police registered offence under Section 392.

On receiving information the team from anti crime cyber police station started search to nab culprit. Meanwhile on receiving tip off from an informer police team arrested one Rajendra Kumar Sahu, resident of Bhanpuri. During interrogation he confessed crime of looting phone phones.

Ceremonial 'hawan' conducted on 200th birth anniversary celebration

Bacheli, Feb 12: DAV Public School, Bacheli conducted a ceremonial Hawan on the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Swami Dayanand Saraswati. On this auspicious day the Principal, Dr. Chetna Sharma along with her team paid a floral tribute by lighting the lamp in front of the portrait of the great and humble personality.

One of the teachers-Vijay Kumar Dewangan had thrown light on the life of Swamiji and he also advised to learn from the biography of Swamiji that how one should lead an ideal life as him. He also added that students should become well aware of this famous per-



sonality and they too may apply his philosophy of serving others without expecting anything in return.

Dewangan beautifully narrated certain incidents happened in the life of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and told that according to the Hindu calendar, the birth anniversary of Swamiji the founder of Arya Samaj is

means light to truth.

The students and the staff paid reverence to Swami Dayanandji with true devotion and there was an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. Principal, Dr. Chetna Sharma appreciated Vijay Kumar Dewangan for his delightful words and asked the students present in the auspicious ceremony to be an enlightened citizen, free from the shackles of ignorance and superstition as advocated by Maharishi Swami Dayanand Saraswati. The pious celebration came to an end by singing a beautiful Bhajan by the music teacher Mrs. Omisha Sahu and the entire DAVians of BACHELI.

Cash, Jewellery worth 6.5 lakh stolen

● From a contractor's house

Raipur, Feb 12: Unidentified thieves decamped with jewellery worth lakhs of rupees from house of a contractor in Tatibandh area of Raipur. They committed theft of cash with 10 tola gold worth Rs 6.5 lakh. Amanaka Police have started investigation after registering offence against unidentified thieves. The incident took place at house of a contractor named Sourabh Mishra in Tatibandh, falling under jurisdiction of Amanaka Police Station. His father-in-law Dilip Tiwari who works as clerk in Zila Sahkari Bank lodged complaint. Dilip Tiwari said that Sourabh Mishra along with his mother went to Prayagraj to attend a marriage function. According to complainant 10 tola gold

ornaments along with cash of Rs 70000 were stolen from the house. Among the stolen items are gold jewellery, tops (4 pairs), bracelet (four pieces), mang tika (one piece), ring (two pieces), gold chain (one piece), total weight about 10 tola, silver anklet (two pairs) and other items were stolen. This amount may increase further after the arrival of the contractor. Sourabh's had gone to her maternal home in Samta Colony with her daughter after locking the house. On the morning of February 11, the lady who worked in the house called and told that the lock of the house was broken. Sourabh's wife then came to house in Tatibandh where she saw the lock outside the house broken. After going inside the house she found that goods of all the three rooms were littered. The cash and jewellery were missing.

Free health check-up camp organized



● At Lara under AYUSH

Lara, Feb 12: Under celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Janbhagidari (Public Participation) NTPC Lara organized a free health checkup camp on alternate medicines, treatment by Homeopathy medicine as per the instructions received by Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga

and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy). Experienced homeopathy doctors from Raigarh conducted the medical camp. Large number of employees, associates and villagers took the benefit of this health camp.

Earlier in the morning a small ceremonial programme was organized by Hospital, where Rajeev Ranjan, GM (FM) inaugu-

rated the health camp by cutting the ribbon and elaborated the importance of alternate medicines for healthy life.

Among others S K Roy, GM (Operation), Ravi Shankar, GM (Project), Hriday Mandal, AGM (TAD & RSW), Saroj Kumar Pujari, CMO, Kanhaiya Das, AGM (HR), doctors and paramedical staffs were present on this occasion.

Field day prog with one day farmer training held

Kondagaon, Feb 12: A one-day field day with farmer training was organized for group frontline demonstration of chickpea cultivation of All India Coordinated Research Project under Tribal subplan at Amadihi under Baderajpur Block of Kondagaon, District on Thursday. This programme was organized under the guidance of Dr. Ritu Saxena, Principal Investigator and prominent Breeder Scientist of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur and in coordination with Agricultural Science Center Kondagaon and District Agriculture and Related Departments. Group front-line demonstration of the All India Coordinated Research



Project under Adivasi subplan on Chickpea crop after training to the farmers of Amadihi of Baderajpur Block and Sodsiwini of Makdi block and planting chickpea crop in the farmers' fields with advanced seeds, seed treatment and advanced technology.

During this the farmers were imparted training by the agricultural scientists and agricultural officers, along with lectures on vari-

ous aspects of chickpea crop in the field day and question-and-answer session with the farmers. In this programme, 180 farmers from Amadihi and Sodsiwani were present, to whom 50 sprayer machines and 100 'hansia' were distributed for agricultural work. All the farmers enthusiastically participated in the program and urged the visitors to organize such a program again.

ACF distributes education items to deaf and dumb children



Raipur, Feb 12: Aranyam Charitable Foundation (ACF), a social organisation led by Sweta Jaiswal distributed education materials and food items among

the inmates of Kopalwani Ashram here along with giving them the message of education. Sweta also spent quality time with the inmates.

Sathya Sai Sanjeevani saves an abandoned grandson

Raipur, Feb 12: The dejected grandfather never imagined that he would return as an elated grandfather. This is the unbelievable story of elderly Bajrang from Ballia Uttar Pradesh, returning with his miraculously saved grandson Sher Kumar.

Sher Kumar was the only child of Naina and Krishnanand. As he showed symptoms of breathlessness on examination by the local village Doctor he was referred to the District Hospital. Later on the advice of a Pediatrician in Mau an Echo test in BHU, Varanasi he was strongly advised to go straight to Shri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital (SSSSH) in Nava Raipur before Sher's condition deteriorates.

He found his way to Nava Raipur Sanjeevani Centre in April 2019. As he was severely underweight



only 1.5 kg and 8 months old, he was asked to return after he reaches the desired weight. They returned home. Bajrang's eldest son and the child's father Krishnanand, a labourer was mentally-retarded. Suddenly he disappeared. A report of missing person was registered at Zila Kotwali Police Station. He never re-

turned. His mother Naina after a year went to her parents home but never returned thereafter. Sher was left abandoned with his grandfather Bajrang.

Bajrang tried his best to find his missing son, but in vain. He was shattered. Then the long spell of the Corona pandemic cast its gloom. It was then to his surprise he started receiving calls enquiring about Sher. He could not believe his good luck when the world came to a standstill Sai Sanjeevani remembered to call. It was like a Call from Heaven. He was counselled and encouraged to come for the treatment of Sher Kumar. The surgical team led by Chief Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Ragini Pandey and Chief Anesthetist Dr. Bal Swarup Sahu operated him for TOF Repair, TAP, PDA Ligation and Monocusp, a very complex cardiac condition. With

God's Grace; there was no post op complication and was discharged on the 11th day Bajrang had not seen a Hospital in his life where he was called and provided all services Totally Free. He had spent around Rs.70, 000/- before coming to this Hospital. At Varanasi, he was told that Sher's complicated surgery would cost over Rs.5.5 lakhs. For an aged person with 0.4 acre of land, a large family and worst kind of family tragedy; it was impossible for him to arrange such a vast sum in his lifetime. Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Raipur was a blessing in disguise for poorest and distressed persons like us. Being illiterate, desperate, disturbed and financially very weak; the Doctors, nurses and staff in Sai Sanjeevani became his loving family. Dr. Ragini was like a mother to the child from the beginning.

'Effects of Covid 19 Pandemic on Mental health of Children and families'

Dr. Meenal Pathak is a board-certified child & adolescent and an adult psychiatrist who specializes in treating mental health disorders in the United States. She graduated from Chhattisgarh Institute of medical sciences - Bilaspur in 2009, and moved to USA for further studies in psychiatry & specializes in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. In her recent articles she brings to light the decline in mental health children have during the Pandemic & Post Pandemic era. Her primary research interests are global mental health, along with telehealth measures that were widely used to provide healthcare. She is an assistant professor and researcher in USA, and has authored numerous articles in various journals, and presented her work at national and international conferences and has featured in expert talks at schools and institutions.

During the pandemic she worked on providing continuous services at the child and adolescent partial hospitalization program through telehealth, which was imperative in supporting mental health care for children, adoles-



cents and families struggling during the pandemic. These telehealth services provided care to patients in their home environment which ensured their safety while taking care of their mental health needs. She also published an article in the journal of Primary care companion for CNS disorders, titled, "Development of a child and adolescent tele-partial hospitalization program (tele-PHP) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic", discussing the operational challenges related to the development of the program.

Her article was also cited in scientific brief report by WHO about interventions to maintain essential

services for children and adolescents during disruptive events.

Dr. Pathak stresses attention be paid to increase in stress levels for children and families during and after pandemic, in response to social isolation, and change in social norms. Schools going completely online for their curriculum for 2 yrs have impacted social & mental health significantly for children. Education, healthcare, community, social engagements also took online forum to continue providing services, which demanded a lot of changes on various platforms including personal adjustments for people.

In countries where mental health awareness and resources are limited, it is difficult to acknowledge the high stress levels and determine the basic support required for children and families. Social isolation has made things worse over time; which has led to development of multiple social media wellness apps that people have started utilizing gradually. It also created awareness for mental and physical wellness overall with a lot of teenage children and young adults using them for men-

tal health awareness. Worsening of mental health has brought a significant shift in the medical community globally, with an increase in medical students' interest to specialize in psychiatry and mental health as compared to the previous trends.

It is imperative to understand, the academic, societal, and mental burden of isolation on children going through developmental milestones due to disruptive events. Schools should consider providing more awareness towards mental health and academic resources to help children and even teachers adjust to the continuously changing curriculums. At last, parents and family members need to be more supportive towards a child's mental health in these uncertain times, they should provide support to children at home by helping them take necessary breaks from the electronics, social media, screen time and incorporate

'experiences' that include quality time with family members, and peers which will help improve overall mental health for the community as a whole.

SECR hosts conference of employees and welfare inspectors

Bilaspur, Feb 12:

In continuation of the initiative started from last year, a conference of all the employees and welfare inspectors of South East Central Railway was organized today on February 11, 2023 at the headquarters.

In the conference, a detailed discussion was held by Principal Chief Personnel Officer and Chief Personnel Officer (CPO) on the role of employees and welfare inspectors in redressing the problems of railway employees and their dependent families and the problems and solutions in their field of work. Mainly, in this conference, guidance was provided on issues related to redressal of grievances of employees/retire-



ment employees, roster, compassionate appointment, family pension, pension re-authorization, and hope card, and detailed discussions were held on the rules. Apart from this, it was also decided to upload the result released by Railway Recruitment Cell on the official web portal

of Railways. In this conference, Rajendra Kumar Aggarwal / Principal Chief Personnel Officer, SD Patidar / Chief Personnel Officer (HR), Ashok Kumar Sharma / Deputy Chief Personnel Officer (HR), Sanjay Oswal / Deputy Chief Personnel Officer

(Construction), Pradeep Mishra / Senior Divisional Personnel Officer / Bilaspur, Uday Bharti / Senior Divisional Personnel Officer / Raipur Division, PT Naik / Senior Divisional Personnel Officer / Nagpur Division, Sneha Sheesh Ghosh / Asst. Personnel Officer / Bilaspur Division, RS Bundela / Assistant Personnel Officer / Railway Recruitment Cell, Bilaspur, Shri Bhaskar Guha / Assistant Workshop Personnel Officer / Varisha / Raipur, Amresh Shukla / Assistant Workshop Personnel Officer / Motibagh / Nagpur and all zones. All the employees and welfare inspectors participated enthusiastically.

Div. Conf of CWJU held in Mungeli

Bilaspur, Feb 12:

Under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Working Journalist Association (CWJU) Mungeli district, on February 8, the divisional conference of Chhattisgarh Working Journalist Association concluded at Pandit Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Navagarh Road, Mungeli.

The chief guest of the program was Guru Rudra Kumar, Minister of Public Health Engineering, Khadi Village Industries and in-charge, the state president of the union, Arvind Awasthi, presided over. State General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Working Journalists Association Vishwa Deepak Rai and veteran leaders of



Congress and BJP were also present as special guests.

A large number of members including office bearers from Bilaspur, Surguja, Korba, Janjgir-Champa,

Manendragarh, Chirmiri, Kawardha, Sarangarh, Bilaigarh, Raipur, Pendra and other districts of the state were present in the divisional conference program organized on

this occasion. Mungeli district unit Chhattisgarh Shramjeevi Patrakar Sangh has made a big contribution to make the above program successful. Rajkumar Yadav, President of the Sangh's organizer unit Mungeli, General Secretary Ishwar Sahu expressed gratitude to the office bearers and members of the Sangh for making the conference a success.

Mainly Bilaspur District President Santosh Singh Thakur, Mo. Mustaq, Krishnapal Dev Khatkar, Mukesh Shrivastava, Suresh Dubey, Jagannath Prasad Netam, Santosh Mishra, Uday Singh Thakur, Durga Prajapati, Ajit Rathore, Mo. Khurshid, Dinesh Sarathi, Sunil Singh Thakur and other journalists were present.

150 COUPLES TIE NUPITAL KNOT UNDER MKY



Rajim: Under the 'Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana' (MKY), 150 couples tied nuptial knot under the mass marriage held at Shri Rajiv Lochan Mandir premises on Saturday. In this 36 girls who came for check-up were found with Anemia and were given medicines and necessary advice by the doctors.

MLA Markam inaugurated the new high school building

Kondagaon, Feb 12: Keeping in mind the convenience of children and parents, the high school building in Sankul Kendra Bakhra, Vikashkhanda Kondagaon, was inaugurated by Regional MLA Mohan Markam on Thursday. Addressing the villagers on this occasion, MLA said that education, health and roads have always been his top priorities because he himself has grown up in rural areas and is



well aware of the small problems of village people. Child's right is the main basis of child's life and future creation and punishment is an important part of any person's life, as it determines the

direction of his life and exhibits the individual's personality. Education is an important part of any person's life which determines the direction of his life and shows the individual's personali-

ty. Today many government and non-government schemes are run by the government to make education within reach of the common men. It is being done so that no child of any section of the society remains deprived of education. Today schools in the form of education temples have been opened in every village. During this, a cultural programme, group dance was presented by the children of Primary School

Hardipara, Primary School Nayapara Kukadgarkapal and High School Bakhra and the participating children were also awarded by the chief guest. On this occasion, the teachers of the Sankul, the students of the school village and their parents, the members of the school management committee, the members of the women self help group and the villagers were present in large numbers.

Magnificent performance by the artists of Dudhmongra



Rajim, Feb 12: Many performances marked the fourth day of Rajim Maghi Punni Mela, in which majorly Chhattisgarhi singer Padmashree Usha Barle presented the dialogues between Kunti and Gandhari in Kapilika style on the main stage on the fourth day to spread Chhattisgarhi culture.

Her expressions and style of presentation was welcomed by all and in the second phase of the program, in the presentation of 'Tikendra Verma, after Ganpati La Manao, the song 'Jai Maa Kali Jai Chhattisgarh Mahtari' was presented on the stage to celebrate Maa Jagat Janani. This was followed by the performance of Jaadu Dare Alberi Naar which enthralled the audience. The last presentation of Lok Kala Manch was Chherchera, a famous festival of Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh's famous Doodh Mongra artistes gave their presentation. After this respectively Jai-

Jai O Durga Mata, Jai Chhattisgarh Mahtari... followed by Thaiya-thaiya naache mor angana... Jas sung made the atmosphere devotional. Along with this, presented the song 'Mahua ke Lata, Kolar Bhaji... sung by the Baiga caste.

After this, the most famous song of Doodh Mongra, which was sung in 1976, gave a brilliant rendition of the song 'Kaniha ma kardhan ua paav ma santi'. Dudh Mongra Lokmanch presented various cultural traditions of Chhattisgarh through dance and songs on the stage in such a way that even the audience felt that this huge stage of Rajim Maghi Punni Mela actually reflects Chhattisgarhi culture. At the end of the program, presentation of Mahtari, a musical drama Mati was given, which also the audience enjoyed a lot. The artists were honored by the local representatives by giving mementos.

APPENDIX IV [rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

EDELWEISS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

Whereas, That the Original Lenders have assigned the below financial assets to Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited which is acting in its capacity as various trustees mentioned below (EARC). Pursuant to the assignment agreements, under Sec 5 of SARFAESI Act, 2002, EARC has stepped into the shoes of the Assignor and all the rights, title and interests of Assignor with respect to the financial assets along with underlying security interests, guarantees, pledges have vested in EARC in respect of the financial assistance availed by the Borrowers and EARC exercises all its rights as a secured creditor.

The Authorized Officer of the EARC, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act), 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with (Rule 3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as mentioned below calling upon the borrower(s) to repay the amounts mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against each property. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited for the amount mentioned below and interest thereon.

Name of Assignor	Name of Trust	Loan A/c Number	Borrower Name & Co-Borrower(s) Name	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
HDB Financial Service Ltd. (HDBFSL)	EARC TRUST SC-410	571438	1) Raj Kumar Ashok Kumar Ramteke (Borrower) 2) Mrs. Sugarata Ramteke, 3) Devendrakumar Ashok Kumar Ramteke, 4) Savita Ramteke 5) Chandraprabha (Co-borrowers)	Rs. 55,11,892.21 (Rupees Fifty Five Lakh Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Two and Twenty One Paise Only) as on 05-05-2022 & 27-05-2022	08-02-2023	Symbolic Possession

Name of Assignor	Name of Trust	Loan A/c Number	Borrower Name & Co-Borrower(s) Name	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited (EHFL)	EARC TRUST SC-417	LRAI0HL0 000047083 & LRAI0TU0 000047155	1. Shekh Faiyazuddin Shek Fajuddin (Borrower) 2. Rajiyabegum Shekh Faiyazuddin (Co-borrowers)	Rs. 34,43,619.23 (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Forty Three Thousand Six Hundred Nineteen and Twenty Three Paise Only) as on 05-05-2022 & May 27, 2022	08-02-2023	Symbolic Possession

Name of Assignor	Name of Trust	Loan A/c Number	Borrower Name & Co-Borrower(s) Name	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
L&T Housing Finance Ltd. (L&T FSL)	EARC TRUST SC-396	RAIHL17000149 & RAIHL17000151	1. Rajesh Vyas (Borrower) 2. M/s. Abhishek Jewellers, 3. Premata Vyas (Co-borrowers)	21,92,406.48ps (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty Eight and Eight Paise Only) as on 14-03-2022 & March 14, 2022	09-02-2023	Physical Possession

Name of Assignor	Name of Trust	Loan A/c Number	Borrower Name & Co-Borrower(s) Name	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
Edelweiss Housing Finance Limited (EHFL)	EARC TRUST SC-417	LRAIAP 000046693	1) Deepak Kumar Rohara (Borrower), 2) Mrs. Jyoti Rohida & 3) P Jagdish Kaur (Co-Borrower)	Rs. 28,67,348.96ps (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Forty Eight and Ninety Six Paise Only) as on 28-04-2022 & April 28, 2022	10-02-2023	Symbolic Possession

Name of Assignor	Name of Trust	Loan A/c Number	Borrower Name & Co-Borrower(s) Name	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
L & T Housing Finance Ltd. (LTHFL)	EARC TRUST SC-396	RAIHL 15000009	1) Peri Chandra Shekhar (Borrower), 2) Mrs. P Suguna Peri & 3) P Jagdish Kaur (Co-borrower)	Rs. 44,53,220.14ps (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Fifty Three Thousand Two Hundred Twenty and Fourteen Paise Only) as on 16-05-2022 & May 16, 2022	10-02-2023	Symbolic Possession

Name of Assignor	Name of Trust	Loan A/c Number	Borrower Name & Co-Borrower(s) Name	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
L & T Housing Finance Ltd. (LTHFL)	EARC TRUST SC-396	RAIHL 15000355	1. Sanjay Giridharilal (Borrower) 2. Yashwantkumar Giridharilal Gupta 3. Sarswati Sanjay Gupta 4. Savita Yashwantkumar Gupta (Co-Borrowers)	Rs. 67,58,088.97 (Rupees Sixty Seven Lakhs Fifty Eight Thousand Eighty Eight and Ninety Seven Paise) as on 28-04-2022 & April 28, 2022	10-02-2023	Symbolic Possession

Name of Assignor	Name of Trust	Loan A/c Number	Borrower Name & Co-Borrower(s) Name	Amount & Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Possession Status
L & T Housing Finance Ltd. (LTHFL)	EARC TRUST SC-396	RAIHL 16000330 & RAIHL 16000335	1. Gopal Saha (Borrower) 2. Bula Saha (Co-Borrower)	Rs. 98,64,919.64ps (Rupees Ninety Eight Lakhs Sixty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Nineteen and Sixty Four Paise Only) as on 28-03-2022 & April 28, 2022	10-02-2023	Symbolic Possession

Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing immovable Property bearing Municipal House No. 36/386, 387, Part of Kh. No-215, Area 820 Sq. Ft., Situated at Jorapara, Ward No 37, R.I.C. Raipur-1, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru Ward, Tahsil & District Raipur, (C.G.) respect of property owner 1. Shri Sanjay Kumar Gupta 2. Shri Yashwantkumar Mangal Kumar Gupta both S/O Shri Giridharilal Gupta R/O Jorapara, Jawahar Nagar, Raipur, (C.G.), East: Gali/Lane, West: Gali & House Owned by Mr. Lakhan Sahu, South: Gali & House Owned by Mr. Ramadhar Sahu, North: Gali & House Owned by Mr. Panchuram Sahu

Description of the Property: Immovable Properties: All that piece and parcel of the property constructed on Part of Kh. No. 436/2, 438/2, 441, Area 1200 Sq. Ft. Situated at Pandirairi, New Shanti Nagar, Ward No 27, P.C. No. 109, R.I.C. Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492001 and the property is Bounded by: North: Plot of Dilip Sen Gupta; South: Road; East: Road; West: House of Vijay Kumar Sharma.

Place: Raipur Date: 10.02.2023 **Edelweiss ASSET RECONSTRUCTION** Authorised Officer Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Company Limited

Human life is to do good works: Swamy Nischalanand Saraswati

Inaugurates free of cost mobile health path lab

occasion Mahant Shri Rajiv Lochan Dasji Maharaj and Sant Shri Balak Dasji Maharaj also addressed the gathering.

Shankaracharya Swamy Nischalanandji Saraswati giving message on spiritualism and nationalism cited the experiences from 'Shrimad Bhagwat Gita' and motivated people to follow in the same direction. He said that the human life is not there to just live it casually, but to do some good work and try to know the self through 'bhakti' and self-introspection. One who is born is sure to die, but it is by attaining the 'Moksha' that one can free himself from this 'chakra'. For this a human being should not only identify his with the physical body, but the inner self.

**Kawardha, Feb 12:**

Seer of Puri Shankaracharya Swamy Nischalanand Saraswati addressed a huge gathering at Gram Ranvirpur and during this thousand of devotees, religious followers were present.

It started with 'Sunderkand' at School Ground, Bazar Chowk in Ranvirpur and during this he also inaugurated free of cost health path lab by the founder of Bhawana Samaj Sewi Sanathan and organiser Bhawana Bohara and hailed this particular initiative for welfare of general public.

This programme was organised by convener 'Adityavahini-Anandvahini', District Kabardham and all religious followers and jointly by all villagers and people of the region. Organiser of the pro-

gramme, Bhawana Bohara in her welcome address said that the place where the 'Sant-Samagam' takes place, it gets automatically sacred and the place where the Shankaracharyaji has put his feet is an honour for all the followers of 'Sanatan dharm'.

She expressed gratitude towards the Gurudev for spreading the rich history of Sanathan Dharm and Indian culture in the country and abroad and spreading the message of 'Akhand Bharat' to the masses.

The way he has defined the 'Sanathan Dharm' and Hindu Dharm, provides inspiration to all for lifetime and we all should get associated with this 'Rastrotkarsh Abhiyan' and contribute in developing of 'Hindu Rashtira' with promotion of 'Sanatan Dharm'. On this

This nature is to there to think about the Supreme and till the entire nature does not get inside one's mind, till then welfare of beings is not possible.

Challenging those not accepting the existence of the God, he said that if there would not have been any water, then no one would have felt thirsty and there would not have been any food, if one does not feel hunger.

In the same way if there is no death, then 'Sachchidanand' would not have been present and which is above 'Nashwarta'. About religious conversion he said that the backward persons of Hindu religion are being forced into religious conversion by misguiding them and even after entering new fold, they are still suffering and questioned as to who they would benefit from this conversion.

Form No. URC-2

Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act (Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014)

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made after fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the CRC/Registrar of Companies, Chhattisgarh, at Bilaspur (C.G.) that GND INFRAVEST LLP (L.PIN: AAS-817) a Limited Liability Partnership may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a Company limited by shares.

2. The principal objects of the company are as follows:
(a) To carry on the business of land acquisition, land development, construction and consultancy engineers; architects, builders, contractors, decorators, colonizers and to acquire, buy, sell land, real estate, multistoried or other building and group housing schemes and to buy manufacture, sell, building and components.
(b) To manufacture, buy, sell, import, export, trade of Barbed wire, Shaped and profiled wire, high tensile quality T, Twisted hook, single flat wire, cables and conductors galvanized iron and steel and all other types of wires and cables including, screws, metal hinges, plates, sheets, strips, hoops, rounds, circles, angles, bars, Beam, Joist, TMT, Channel, rods and to alloy steel, stainless steel, any other products from steel. To deal in iron and steel of all qualities, grades, types and kinds as iron mongers, iron masters, steel makers and steel converters; To carry on in India and elsewhere the manufacturing, trade or business, prospecting, raising, operating, buying, selling, importing, exporting, purchasing otherwise dealing in iron and steel of all qualities, grades, types and kinds.

3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at C/o Deepak Kedia, GND Chamber, Agrasen Chowk, Bhaishanti Raipur, (C.G.) 492001

4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6, 7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.

Dated this 13th day of February, 2023
Name(s) of Applicant - 1. Shri Naresh Kedia, 2. Shri Deepak Kedia

BRIEF



People outside the Badrinath temple after fresh snowfall, in Chamoli district, Sunday.

Explosion

Noida: Two children, including a 12-day-old girl, died and four other members of their family suffered severe injuries in a fire that erupted after a cooking gas cylinder exploded at their home here early on Sunday, officials said. Chief Fire Officer, Pradeep Kumar Choubey, said his department received information at 2.52 am about the fire in a 'pucca' house in the JJ cluster in Sector 8.

Mishap

Rajgarh: Two persons were killed and three others injured when a speeding truck hit their sports utility vehicle (SUV) from behind in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district, police said on Sunday. The accident took place on Saturday evening near Narsingharh on National Highway no.52, an official said.

Arrested

Kaushambi: Two criminals wanted in cases of loot, dacoity and other crimes in several districts of UP were nabbed after an encounter with the police in Manjhanpur area here, police said on Sunday.

Gunfight

Deoghar: Two police personnel were killed in a gunfight with unidentified persons in Jharkhand's Deoghar district, police said on Sunday. The incident took place around 12.30 am on Shyamganj Road in Deoghar town, around 250 km from Ranchi, when unidentified persons attacked the house of a local fish trader, who had sought security from the administration after another attack on him a few days back, Superintendent of Police Subhash Chandra Jat said.

Suicide

Muzaffarnagar: A man allegedly shot himself dead after an argument with his mother here, police said on Sunday. According to the police, Ali Zaidi (23) ended his life on Saturday in Garhi village. Circle Officer of Police (CO), Shakeel Ahmed, told reporters here that the body has been sent for post-mortem. A country-made pistol used in the incident has also been recovered.

Visit

Nagpur: Former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh has visited his hometown Nagpur for the first time in 15 months after being released from jail and alleged that he was implicated in false cases.

CANVASSING CASTE

Artist Vikrant Bhise paints Ambedkar

Continues Dalit struggles at India Art Fair

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Taking a walk along the hundreds of modern and contemporary art pieces at the India Art Fair, the visitor's eyes were caught by a display of splashes of blue that can only be associated with Dr BR Ambedkar and his work for Dalits, labourers and women.

Vikrant Bhise, a conceptual artist based in Mumbai, brought a number of works based on Ambedkar and his association with India's labour laws, atrocities on SC/ST communities, and the suicides of PhD scholar Rohith Vemula in 2016 and resident doctor Payal Tadavi in 2019.

"For the last 14 years, I have been working with these themes that are part of the Constitution. I depict the labour acts, women acts, Dalit literature and movements that have happened and are happening," the painter told PTI. The booth by Anant Art Gallery housed a series of works by Bhise, predominantly



Ambedkarite in nature. One of his larger pieces, "Dr Ambedkar and Labour", shows a labourer cleaning a bust of Babasaheb and inadvertently covering his eyes as if trying to shield the Dalit leader from the atrocities and injustice on SC/ST communities. Other artworks included by the University of Hyderabad for his alleged role in an assault on an ABVP student leader. Tadavi, a second year resident doctor at BYL Nair Hospital in Mumbai, allegedly committed suicide after facing harassment by three of her seniors.

the measure to subdue a crowd protesting the desecration of a statue of Ambedkar. The 38-year-old painter pointed towards two artworks, one showcasing a newspaper clipping after Tadavi's suicide and the other Vemula's empty hostel room. Vemula ended his life after being suspended by the University of Hyderabad for his alleged role in an assault on an ABVP student leader. Tadavi, a second year resident doctor at BYL Nair Hospital in Mumbai, allegedly committed suicide after facing harassment by three of her seniors.

CHILD MARRIAGE

'Arrests not only solution, need to address causes'

Guwahati, Feb 12 (PTI):

The recent arrests of over 3,000 people allegedly involved in child marriages in Assam has created a divide in the civil society, with a section asserting that mere law enforcement cannot be the solution while some arguing that at least the law is being discussed and may prove to be a deterrent.

More than 3,000 people allegedly associated with child marriages have been apprehended so far across Assam, and lodged in temporary jails, sparking protests by women who decried the arrest of sole breadwinners of their families.

Human rights lawyer Debasmita Ghosh said that once a marriage is consummated, the law considers it to be valid and children born out of such unions enjoy all legal rights.

"The law states that a child marriage is voidable only if a petition is filed before a district court by the person who was a child at the time of the marriage and if the petitioner is a minor, it can be filed through his or her guardian," she told PTI.

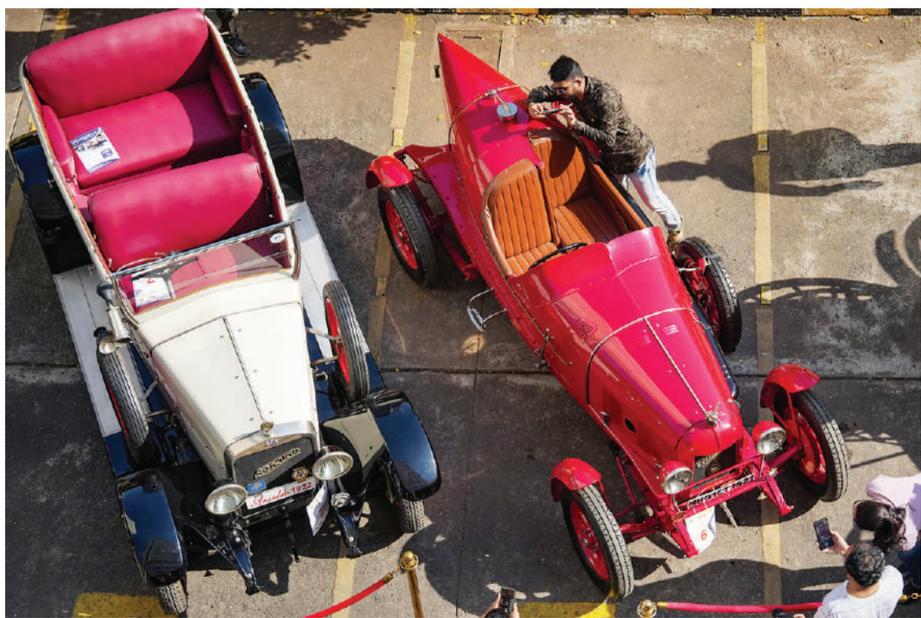
If the petition is being filed by the person who was married as a child, it must be done so within two years of the person

attaining adulthood, Ghosh said. "In most of the arrests made, the couples may be adults now and if they have not filed petitions for annulling their marriages, the state has no business to interfere in their personal lives," Ghosh added.

Besides, the law was enacted in 2006 and the name itself suggests marriages should be prohibited but why was it not done so by agencies responsible for it? she questioned.

Eminent academician Manorama Sarma said child marriages must end but this is a social evil, not a law and order problem. "Taking care of

VINTAGE CAR RALLY



People click pictures of vintage cars during the 40th Annual Vintage Car Fiesta, in Mumbai, Sunday.

Sangam city to witness mass marriage event for 'divyangs'

On Feb 18

Prayagraj (UP), Feb 12 (PTI): Prayagraj will witness a unique mass marriage event on February 18 in which several people with disability will tie the knots and embark on a new life with the help of the city residents. The event, in its

15th year, is unique in that instead of the groom, the wedding procession will be brought by the bride's side.

Srinarayan Yadav, convener of the event, told PTI that the event is being organised by Swaraj Divyangyan Seva Parivar this year, and will be held

in the premises of Rajshri Tandon Seva Kendra, Bank Road.

Twelve divyang (people with disability) couples will tie the knot during the event. In all, about 350 Divyangs have got married in the last 15 years under the programme which is held with the sup-

port of the general public, Yadav said. There is a tradition of gifting household articles to the newlyweds by the people from the city and outside. People who run businesses come forward and donate their articles to help the couples start a new life, Yadav said.

99.3 percentile NEET scorer in legal trouble

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Over nativity claim

A 21-year-old medical student of the prestigious JIPMER in Puducherry has found himself embroiled in a legal battle over his claim of nativity — an issue that has triggered a wider debate and calls for proper observance of admission norms. Najih Khalid scored 99.30 percentile in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) last year and bagged admission in the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) under the residency quota, but his admission was challenged soon after. Another medical student, 18-year-old

Saminathan S, alleged that Khalid had claimed nativity in Puducherry as well as Kerala and moved the Madras High Court in November last year seeking cancellation of his admission.

Khalid has denied any wrongdoing on his part.

According to admission norms, a student cannot claim nativity in more than one state in an academic year while applying for admission to medical colleges.

But many students take advantage of varying nativity norms in different states and apply for admission in multiple states to "grab the best opportuni-

ty", claimed an organisation fighting for the cause of students of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

"This nativity duplicity is quite frequent in many other states, particularly in bordering areas... Students should be aware that it can lead to a disaster in their career," said M Narayanasamy, the president of the Puducherry UT All CENTAC Students Parents Association.

Petitioner Saminathan, who secured a seat in the Karaikal campus of JIPMER, which is considered secondary to the Puducherry centre, demanded that Khalid's admission be cancelled because he misled the authorities by filing a false affidavit.

MASS MARRIAGE



Brides and grooms tie the knot during a mass marriage ceremony, at Gadauli Dham in Mirzapur, Sunday.

AIADMK, allies intensify poll campaign in Erode East

Make DMK raise pitch

Chennai, Feb 12 (PTI):

The Congress and DMK may have had a head start in launching the poll campaign in Erode East Assembly constituency, but the AIADMK and its ally the BJP, intensified their campaign making electioneering in the constituency balanced.

The campaign will reach a high decibel level next week when BJP State chief K Annamalai is expected to take up a blitzkrieg campaign against the ruling DMK, which is supporting the

Congress (former Union Minister E V K S Elangovan) in the February 27 by-poll.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin is also set to hit the campaign trail and raise the pitch as the opposition has been targeting the alleged unfulfilled poll promises of the DMK government.

AIADMK interim general secretary K Palaniswami has been training his guns on the State government, and local civic issues appear to virtually dwarf his campaign.

'NPP, UDP, TMC puppets of BJP in Meghalaya'

Shillong, Feb 12 (PTI):

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh called the Conrad K Sangma-led NPP, the UDP and the TMC "puppets" of the BJP in poll-bound Meghalaya.

Claiming that the Meghalaya polls will be a "watershed election" for the Congress, Ramesh said 47 of its 60 candidates are "below the age of 45 and this has never happened before in any state".

Such a decision helped bring youth to the fore, he said.

The Congress leader, who was here on Saturday to release the party's manifesto for the February 27 assembly elections, said Meghalaya means abode of clouds, but "the clouds



Jairam Ramesh

are not rain-bearing ones but of corruption, unemployment and power cuts".

"The Congress is fighting against the cloud of corruption and unemployment, and the destruction of Meghalaya's identity and the cloud of the unholy alliance BJP, NPP,

UDP, TMC that are all claiming they are fighting the election independently "the former union minister said.

The Congress leader also asserted that "there are puppets of the BJP in different states".

"Here (in Meghalaya) there is one puppet called the NPP, there is another puppet called the UDP and now there is a new one, a third puppet that has come into the Meghalaya politics, TMC or JMP (Judas Mukul Party)," he said.

Former chief minister Mukul Sangma, ex-speaker Charles Pyngrupe and 10 other Congress legislators had in 2021 switched their allegiance to the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC.

Kerala fights drug menace among school children

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 12 (PTI):

Few months ago, a shocking video surfaced on social media in which a young woman was seen screaming loudly under the influence of drugs after being caught by police from a lodge in a central Kerala town during a raid. The investigation into the incident later revealed that the woman, once a bright student, was lured into the trap of drugs by the deadly mafia and was being used as a carrier to run their lucrative business. It was one of such several incidents that shook the collective consciousness of Kerala society, prompting the government to crack down on those engaged in the dirty business in the southern state.

'TMC 'playing game' to help BJP in Tripura'

Agartala, Feb 12 (PTI):

The Trinamool Congress is "playing a game" to support the BJP in Tripura but will not be able to hamper the Congress-Left alliance's chances in the assembly polls, the state's AICC in-charge Ajoy Kumar said on Sunday. A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a dig at the Left-Congress alliance, Kumar asserted that the tie-up was on a strong footing in the state as there was "political commonness" between the Congress and the CPI(M) in Tripura.

"You see the crowds (for Left-Congress alliance), see on the ground. The leaders may have small issues but the cadre people

Transgenders in K'taka open canteen, start new life

Mangaluru, Feb 12 (PTI):

Transgenders, who have always been kept out of the mainstream by their families and the general public, have started venturing into new areas to begin their lives afresh.

In Udupi district, a group of transgenders who are natives of other districts, have set up a canteen for night-time food seekers.

Three of them, Poorvi, Vaishnavi and Chandana, who used to seek alms on the streets of Udupi, have taken the decision to lead a self-reliant life with a canteen near the Udupi bus stand. They run their

canteen from 1 am to 7 am when travellers who find themselves lost in the city wander in search of food. The canteen has turned out to be a boon for the night travellers and those who work in the night shift who leave their workplaces at odd hours.

The canteen provides delicious snacks and tea to the customers. As a majority of hotels in the city are closed during night time, people have now started relishing the snacks at the canteen run by transgenders. The trio said the response from the public has so far been encouraging and they get respect from the public.



Ajoy Kumar

are all together. I have been travelling all over Tripura, it is quite heartening to see that," he told PTI in a telephonic interview from Agartala.

Asked about the Tipra Motha party gaining ground in the tribal belt and if that will affect the Left-Congress, Kumar pointed to the head of

CPI(M) in Tripura, Jitendra Chowdhury, being a tribal leader.

"He (Chaudhary) is actually a leader who speaks their (tribals') language. He is the son of the soil. So I think the tribals are also understanding that Jitendra Chowdhury represents the actual tribal aspirations," Kumar asserted. The tribals are shifting towards Chowdhury and the Congress leadership, he claimed. In the 60-member Tripura assembly, 20 seats are reserved for tribal areas. On the TMC making a fray in Tripura and if it will damage the Left-Congress' chances, Kumar said, "I don't think so (it will hamper Left-Congress chances)."

Earthquake diplomacy: Greek foreign minister visits Turkey

Athens, Feb 12 (AP):

Greek foreign minister Nikos Dendias visited the earthquake-stricken areas of Turkey on Sunday, accompanied by his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu.

The visit was part of a new round of so-called "earthquake diplomacy" between the two uneasy allies, whose relations have often been frosty, if not downright hostile.

Something similar happened in 1999, three years after the two countries almost went to war over two uninhabited islets in the Aegean Sea.

In August 1999, a 7.6 magnitude tremor had struck Turkey, resulting in about 18,000 dead; the following month, a 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck the Greek capital, Athens, killing 143 people.

In both cases, the two countries sent rescuers to assist in each other's efforts. The warming of bilateral relations had been widely covered in the international media.

Cavusoglu recalled a letter that he, as a private cit-



izen, had sent to TIME magazine at the time.

"Back then, I said that we should not wait for another earthquake to improve our relations. I repeat this now, as Turkiye's foreign minister. We must make efforts to improve our relations," Cavusoglu said.

"I want to totally sign on to what Mevlut said: that we should not wait for natural disasters to improve our relations," Dendias said later.

The two countries are at odds over research for natural resources in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Turkiye has also ac-

again. The two Greek officials called Erdogan to express their condolences for the earthquake's victims and assure him of Greek support.

Publicly, and on social media, Greek people have expressed their support for Turkey, except for some on the far nationalist fringe. Greek unions have taken the lead in collecting aid for the displaced. At all sports events held on Saturday, a minute of silence was observed for the victims. Cavusoglu and Dendias visited the Operations Centre in Antakya, where they were briefed on the latest developments concerning the evacuation and rescue effort, as well as on the humanitarian needs that have arisen. They also saw the extent of the devastation from the air, in a helicopter trip. Dendias and Cavusoglu also visited the camp where Greek and other international units, units are based. Rescuers from EU countries have pulled a total of 205 survivors from the ruins, Dendias said in a joint appearance with Cavusoglu.

cused Greece of militarising some Aegean islands, in violation of international treaties, a charge Greece has strongly denied. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has often threatened Greece that Turkish troops will come "suddenly one night," and has mentioned that Turkey's new Tayfun missiles can reach Athens.

Such rhetoric has, at least for the moment, been put aside. Erdogan has spoken on the phone with Greece's President Katerina Sakellariopoulou and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, with whom he had declared he would not speak ever

CYCLONE GABRIELLE



Planes wait on the tarmac at Auckland Airport after flights were cancelled and passengers stranded as a cyclone Gabrielle hit the northern parts of New Zealand, Sunday, Feb. 12.

Iranian President Raisi to visit China to shore up ties

Beijing, Feb 12 (AP):

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will visit China for a three-day trip starting Tuesday at the invitation of his counterpart, Xi Jinping. China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying made the announcement on Sunday. She did not elaborate on Raisi's itinerary. The two leaders met last September in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, when Xi underscored China's support for Iran. In December, Raisi pledged to remain committed to deepening the strategic partnership during a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua in Tehran. China is a major buyer of Iranian oil and an important source of investment in the Mideast country. In 2021, Iran and China signed a 25-year strategic cooperation



agreement that covered major economic activities from oil and mining to industry, transportation and agriculture. Both countries have had tense relations with the United States and have sought to project themselves as a counterweight to American power alongside Russia.

Washington has accused Iran of selling hundreds of attack drones to Russia for its war in Ukraine and has sanctioned executives of an Iranian drone manufacturer. At that same time, ties between Moscow and Beijing have grown stronger.

US to welcome any effort by India to end hostilities in Ukraine: White House

Washington, Feb 12 (PTI):

The US will welcome any attempt that could lead to ending the raging Russia-Ukraine conflict, including any effort that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is willing to undertake, the White House has said.

The remarks by National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby came on Friday, days after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval held talks with Russian leaders, including President Vladimir Putin.

When asked if there is still time for Prime Minister Modi to convince Russian President Putin to stop the war,

Kirby said: "I think there's still time for Putin to stop the war. I think there's still time for it."

"PM Modi can convince; I will let PM Modi speak to (or make) whatever efforts he's willing to undertake. The US would welcome any effort that could lead to an end of hostilities in Ukraine that are in keeping with President (Volodymyr) Zelensky's objectives and his leadership, his determination of what is acceptable to the Ukrainian people," Kirby said.

India has repeatedly called on Russia and Ukraine to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue and end their ongoing conflict.

Prime Minister Modi has spoken to the presi-

dents of Russia and Ukraine on multiple occasions and urged for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue for the resolution of the conflict.

In his remarks, Kirby said the single person responsible for what the Ukrainian people are going through is Putin.

"And he could stop it right now. Instead, he's firing cruise missiles into energy and power infrastructure, and trying to knock out the lights and knock out the heat so the Ukrainian people suffer even more than they already have.

"He could end it right now. And since he's not willing to do that, clearly, we've got to make sure we can help the

Ukrainians succeed on the battlefield so that when President Zelensky determines it's time to negotiate and he's the only one that can make that determination he can do it with the strongest hand possible," Kirby said.

The ties between India and Russia remained strong notwithstanding Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. India's import of Russian crude oil has gone up significantly in the last few months despite increasing disquiet over it in many Western countries.

India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

Lankas customs seizes over 200 endangered star tortoises



● Being smuggled to Malaysia

Colombo, Feb 12 (PTI):

Sri Lankan customs officers have seized 206 live star tortoises, which are listed as an endangered species, that were being smuggled to Malaysia in boxes labelled as "dried seafood", the largest such capture since 2015.

The Biodiversity, Cultural and National Heritage Protection Division of Sri Lanka customs seized the live tortoises at the Air Cargo Exports Terminal of Colombo international airport on Saturday, a customs release said.

The live tortoises, stuffed inside cloth sacks and packed in six boxes labelled as "dried seafood", were being smuggled out to Kuala Lumpur, it said.

According to the officials, it was the largest seizure since mid-2015 when a bid to smuggle 124 tortoises was foiled.

Sri Lankan star tortoises are the same species (Geochelone elegans) as that found in India and Pakistan but have a specif-

ic geographic identity, the customs officials said.

"It is one of the most beautiful tortoise species found in the world and due to the same reason they have been highly sought after in the illegal pet trade, especially in the South East Asian countries," they said.

"As a result, the species has become threatened with extinction and included in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of species and also in Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)," the officials added.

They said that the according to Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (section 40), attempt to export any mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, coral or invertebrate, eggs, among others without the permission of the Director General of the Wildlife Conservation Department is an offence and also simultaneously violates the Customs Ordinance.

US fighter shot down object over northern Canada: Trudeau

Ottawa, Feb 12 (AP):

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that on his order a US fighter jet shot down an "unidentified object" that was flying high over the Yukon, acting a day after the US took similar action over Alaska.



high altitude over northern Canada.

It wasn't immediately clear how high up it was flying or what it was.

Trudeau said he also spoke with President Joe Biden, who himself ordered the downing of an unidentified object over remote Alaska on Friday.

A NORAD spokesman, Maj Olivier Gallant, said both Canadian and US jets operating as part of NORAD had been deployed. The jets were scrambled and it was a US jet that shot it down.

While Trudeau described the object as "unidentified," Gallant said the military had determined what it was but would not reveal details.

F-22 fighter jets have now downed three objects in the airspace above the US and Canada over seven days, a stunning development

in the skies that is raising questions on just what, exactly, is hovering overhead and who has sent them.

At least one of the objects downed was believed to be a spy balloon from China, but the other two have not yet been publicly identified.

Trudeau said that Canadian forces would recover the wreckage for study. The Yukon where it was shot down is westernmost Canadian territory and the among the least populated part of Canada.

The downing came a day after White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said an object roughly the size of a small car was shot down in remote Alaska. Officials couldn't say if it contained any surveillance equipment, where it came from or what purpose it had.

Kirby said it was shot down because it was flying at about 40,000 feet (13,000 meters) and posed a "reasonable threat" to the safety of civilian flights, not because of

any knowledge that it was engaged in surveillance. According to US Northern Command, recovery operations continued Saturday on sea ice near Deadhorse, Alaska.

In a statement, the Northern Command said there were no new details on what the object was. It said the Alaska Command and the Alaska National Guard, along with the FBI and local law enforcement, were conducting search and recovery.

PLANE-BUS COLLISION



An American Airlines aircraft is damaged after a collision with a passenger bus at Los Angeles International Airport, in Los Angeles. The jet being towed on a taxiway collided with a bus injuring five people. There was no interruption to operations at the airport.

India-Sri Lanka ties guided by PM Modi's Neighbourhood First' policy

Colombo, Feb 12 (PTI):

The partnership between India and Sri Lanka is guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Neighbourhood First' policy. India's Neighbourhood First' policy is an integral component of Indian foreign policy. The policy seeks to build cordial and synergetic relations with India's South Asian neighbours in various areas such as economy, science and technology, research and education, among others. Speaking on the occasion, Wickremesinghe said, "this was a gift given by PM Modi. I should

thank PM Modi and the Indian government. This will remain a main feature of the Indo-Lanka partnership". Prime Minister Modi described the centre as an important initiative and acknowledged the presence of President Wickremesinghe on the occasion. "The Jaffna Cultural Centre is an important initiative signifying the close cultural cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. It will benefit several people. The august presence of President Ranil Wickremesinghe made the programme even

more special," Modi tweeted. "I will never forget my special visit to Jaffna in 2015, where I had the opportunity to lay the foundation stone for the Jaffna Cultural Centre," he said in another tweet and shared pictures from his 2015 visit to Jaffna. The centre, whose foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2015, was dedicated to the people of Sri Lanka after a colourful cultural show that projected the diversity and richness of Sri Lankan culture.



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Are earthquakes to hit India, Pakistan soon?

An earthquake of magnitude 4.0 on the Richter scale struck Assam's Nagaon on Sunday. The earthquake occurred at 4.18 pm today. A day before, a tremor of 3.8 magnitude was recorded in Surat district in Gujarat. The tremor was recorded at 12:52 am with its epicentre some 27 kilometres west south west (WSW) of Surat. Are Pakistan and India going to face a devastating earthquake just like Turkey and Syria? And when will it happen? Such rumours are being flooded on Twitter after a Dutch-based researcher—who claimed to have correctly predicted tremors in Turkey, formerly known as Turkey, and Syria—alleged that the Indian subcontinent is next in the line. Frank Hoogerbeets, who according to his bio on Twitter works for the organisation Solar System Geometry Survey (SSGS) in the Netherlands, has foretold that a major earthquake will start in Afghanistan, and end in the Indian Ocean after crossing Pakistan and India. Dutch researcher who anticipated the quake in Turkey and Syria three days ago had also predicted seismic activity anticipating a large size earthquake originating in Afghanistan, through Pakistan and India eventually terminating into the Indian Ocean. In the clip, Hoogerbeets can be heard saying, "These areas could be next candidate for larger seismic activity if we look at the atmospheric fluctuations but again keep in mind that these are rough estimates and not all large earthquakes leave a footprint in the atmosphere they do not always announce themselves". He claims that these estimations are tentative because not all significant earthquakes can be detected by atmospheric fluctuations. Predicting earthquakes is a touchy issue for scientists, in part because it has long been a game of con artists and pseudoscientists who claim to be able to forecast earthquakes. (Their declarations have, of course, withered under scrutiny.) Scientists do have a good sense of where earthquakes could happen. Using historical records and geologic measurements, they can highlight potential seismic hot spots and the kinds of tremors they face. As for when quakes will hit, that's still murky. "Lots of seismologists have worked on that problem for many decades. We're not predicting earthquakes in the short term," said Beroza. "That requires us to know all kinds of information we don't have." It's difficult to figure out when an earthquake will occur, since the forces that cause them happen slowly over a vast area but are dispersed rapidly over a narrow region. What's amazing is that forces built up across continents over millions of years can hammer cities in minutes. Forecasting earthquakes would require high-resolution measurements deep underground over the course of decades, if not longer, coupled with sophisticated simulations. And even then, it's unlikely to yield an hour's worth of lead time. So there are ultimately too many variables at play and too few tools to analyze them in a meaningful way. Some research shows that foreshocks can precede a larger earthquake, but it's difficult to distinguish them from the hundreds of smaller earthquakes that occur on a regular basis. On shorter time scales, texts and tweets can actually race ahead of seismic waves. In the 2011 Tohoku earthquake in Japan, for example, warnings from near the epicenter reached Tokyo 232 miles away, buying residents about a minute of warning time. Many countries are now setting up warning systems to harness modern electronic communications to detect tremors and transmit alerts ahead of shaking ground, buying a few precious minutes to seek shelter. Meanwhile, after a large earthquake, aftershocks often rock the afflicted region. "If we just had a big one, we know there will be smaller ones soon," Denolle said. When it comes to prediction, researchers understandably want to make sure they don't overpromise and underdeliver, especially when thousands of lives and billions of dollars in damages are at stake. But even this caution has had consequences.

Milk prices affecting the budget of common man

Abhijit Roy

The steady increase in milk prices in recent times has affected the average common person's budget. Basically, milk has been a significant part of the diet of every Indian. From young toddlers to elderly people, milk is an indispensable diet. Without milk, everyone's life is lacking, whether they are healthy or ill. Everyone is aware of the fact that large, cooperative firms heavily intervene in the milk industry. As a matter of fact, now nobody denies the existence of widespread interference in the milk industry by large, cooperative firms. The major players in this industry are now in charge of controlling prices. In such circumstances, many Indians find it challenging to purchase milk. This was reportedly the fifth price hike in the previous year when Mother Dairy raised the cost of milk by Rs 2 per litre in December 2022. After then, Amul, a significant cooperative milk manufacturer, raised the price by Rs 3 per litre. Remember that this Gujarat-based company also increased milk prices in November 2022 as well. Regarding Amul's dual pricing strategy, customers have also questioned why prices in Gujarat and the rest of the nation varied. Does this have political ramifications? This must be viewed in light of a product's national acceptability. By the way, the demand and supply imbalance has been blamed for the nationwide rise in milk prices. The rise in the price of cow-buffalo fodder has reduced milk producers' profits. While inflation has affected fodder, due to a shift in farming practices, readily available fodder is now scarce. Previously available for domesticated animals, stubble, etc., is now burned in fields by farmers. In addition, where the companies are blaming the cost increase for the increase in milk prices, the imbalance of demand and supply is also a major factor in the price increase. The new generation's decreasing interests in farming and animal husbandry, as well as the widespread use of cultivable land for commercial purposes, building construction, and other purposes, have resulted in the contraction of agricultural land. This has had an impact on animal husbandry as well. It is estimated that milk and its products account for 20 per cent of the average Indian's monthly food expenditure. This cost rises due to a scarcity of milk in cities compared to villages. Despite the fact that consumption of milk and its byproducts has increased over the past ten years across all societal segments, supply growth has not kept pace. Historically, the death of lakhs of cows due to Lumpy disease in many states has had a significant impact on milk supply. On the other hand, the effect of foot-and-mouth disease has been seen in buffaloes. However, despite the shortfall in production, there is no dearth of milk, its products, or sweets in the market. In such a situation, the question arises, "How is milk flowing in the market?" How has India become the world's largest milk producer today? Does chemically treated and adulterated milk play a major role in this? Anyway, the scale on which the inspection of milk should have been done by the responsible department is not happening. Milk producers have been continuously talking about fodder inflation. By the way, increasing milk production and research in this direction are not being taken seriously at the level of governments.

RELIEF MATERIALS TO TURKEY



Relief materials given by Indians are kept inside the Turkey Embassy, that would be sent to earthquake-hit Turkiye, in New Delhi, Sunday, Feb. 12.

Women Empowerment: Catalyst for Nation's growth



ER. PRABHAT KISHORE



"The world needs strong women. Women who will lift and build others, who will love and be loved. Women who live bravely, both tender and fierce. Women of indomitable will." – Amy Tenney.

In Indian culture and civilization, women receive high recognition and respect. The rivers, which are the lifeline of the people's life, have been termed as the mother and even our country is called "Bharat Mata". Our most of the festivals are based on adoration of Goddesses in various forms. A Dharmashastra reveals "Yatra Naryastu Pujyante, Ramante Tatra Devta; Yatraitastu Na Pujyante, Sarvastatra Falla Kriya"; meaning where women are honoured, dignity blossoms and wherever women are dishonoured, all actions no matter how novel it may be, remains unfruitful. Unfortunately, with span of time, the position of women gradually deteriorated globally and practices of Sati Pratha, infanticide, child marriages, dowry, taboo on women remarriages, Triple talaq, Nikah halala and various other discriminations prevailed in the society.

Numerous reformers, in the country as well as abroad, have struggled for change in such stereotypes and to some extent changes in society have reflected. Mother of Indian feminism and first female teacher of

India Savitri Bai Phule started several schools for women as well as care centre for pregnant rape victims in order to break free from shackles of socially-constructed discriminatory practices. Our constitution provides equal rights to women including equality, dignity and free from discrimination. Various legislations and policies notably Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019, National Policy for Empowerment of Women 2001, Integrated Child Protection Scheme 2009, National Education Policy 2020 etc. have been enforced against social malpractices to cope up the grimed situation.

Earlier girl's dreams, with just nice groom and fine home, were faced with a life confined within the four walls of their houses. After globalisation and advent of education, they intended to break the barriers & boundaries of four walls, bridge the gaps between their dreams & reality and realized that outside world is so charming and they should fulfill their aspiration to go ahead. Once the women were considered only for child care and household works. Their domestic works have always been undervalued and under-reported. Now the time has changed and

they are being considered part of mainstream workforce. They are playing pivotal role in every sector, whether it be business, politics, social functions, journalism, government jobs etc.

Their contribution is the reflection of gender equality. Target-5 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of United Nations has been specially designed for Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls by year 2030. Empowerment of women means increasing the strength of the woman socially, educationally, economically politically and psychologically. There are 3 Ls of women empowerment which includes Learning, Labour and Leadership. Learning helps woman to get limitless knowledge leading to broaden their thoughts & overcome adversities.

Empowering women by imparting quality education and providing relevant opportunities will lead to their holistic growth & development and disapproving gender bias. There is saying, "Sanskrita Stree Parashakti" meaning an enlightened woman is a source of infinite strength. In education sector, special emphasis have been given to girls education through various central as well as state educational schemes namely Bihar Education Project (BEP), Lok Jumbish, Andhra Pradesh Primary Education Project (APPEP), District Primary Education Project (DPEP), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Samagra Shiksha (SS), National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGL), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao etc.

According to Mahatma Gandhi, "If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you ed-

ucate an entire family." There is a famous African adage: "If you educate a boy, you train a man. If you educate a girl, you train a village." In social sector, 50% reservation in Panchayat & local body elections, 50% reservation in teachers' recruitment and 35% reservation in government jobs to women in Bihar have led the political and social revolution in the State. Presently, most of the states in India have provided reservations to women in Panchayati Raj Institutions to consciously empower them as decision makers at grass root level. These initiatives have acted as a catalyst for social change. Governments have also launched several schemes for women emancipation and to make them self-reliant. "Vocal for local" campaign will be possible only when women will heartily participate. Similarly, women have to provide systematic skill training, opportunity and support for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The day to day happening of heinous crimes like gang rape, sexual abuse, acid attacks and domestic violence are stigma on our society. Despite strenuous efforts, such inhuman incidents are occurring frequently; and there is need of stringent punishment to culprits through fast courts. No doubt, the women, as a mother, sister, and wife have sacrificed a lot for our success. But unfortunately, there are some women who are engaged in suppression and discrimination of their female members. The women's day is very apt day to think, analyse and act globally on all those issues, which are responsible for transforming women into a capable human capital through political, social, administrative and economic empowerment.

(Author is a technocrat & educationist. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dr Manmohan Singh on wheelchair in Rajya Sabha

During the proceedings of Rajya Sabha Dr Manmohan Singh was sitting on the wheelchair in the last row and that shows his deep concerns about the strong democratic set up of the country and the country should feel proud of it. Just few days ago Chief Justice India visited the Amrit Udyan along with his two daughters who were on wheelchairs. I sent the representation to Chief Justice of India to request him to take care of disabled and I had sent the representations to previous Chief Justices also. I am a disability activist and do raise the issues of disabled wherever and whenever it is required. Disabled are a harried lot and have to face huge discrimination in every stage of employment whether it is at entry stage of employment or it is the case transfer or it is the case of promotion and even after retirement disabled are not getting full pension and full family pension. Disability act was passed by the parliament in 1996 and again in 2016 but still both these acts had not been implemented meticulously and still vast disparity exists between Able and Disabled. Whereas various court decisions had been delivered against the disparity, it is against the natural justice and also against the NHRC and also against the preamble of constitution and lastly against the weaker sections of society as the entire disabled is covered under weaker sections of society.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Indian Pathan

So, after a gap of about 4 years, SRK, the Badshah of Hindi movies has hit the silver screen in a movie named PATHAN. Before its release, the said movie faced some protests across the nation due to a particular colour of a bikini worn by its heroine in a scene of the movie. Apart from the colour of the bikini worn by the heroine, that particular shot was totally obscene and all sensible moviegoers of the nation are surprised how that particular shot escaped the censor's scissors as there are many instances in the past when the censor board was found to be very strict in this regard. Before parting may I ask a very simple question to our movie buffs? Will a movie titled INDIAN would have become a super hit in spite of all the masalas as seen in PATHAN in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan? We all know that there are some superstars in Bollywood whose loyalty to the nation is always doubtful. This happens only in India.

Dr Ashim Chowdhury, by mail

The emergence of the Gig Economy in India



Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

It's remarkable to observe how swiftly the Gig Economy has expanded in India in recent years. As the workforce of today becomes more mobile, there has been a boom in the Gig Economy. The Gig Economy Represents a Vast Range of Industries and Fields looked at breakdowns by gender,

region, education, and whether employees are single or in a relationship. It is frequently referred to as the "sharing economy," and it has been slowly growing as more and more people start working as freelancers or independent contractors. Additionally, it enables remote work in settings with more adaptable schedules.

The result of a gig economy produces cheaper, more efficient and flexible services that can offer consumers a unique and fast alternative to regular, standardized business. In addition, it is solely operated through the internet, making it an extremely popular choice for the younger demographic. One of the main factors contributing to the growth of the gig economy is the increased mobility of today's workforce as a result of the advent of the digital age and the ability to work from any location.

Over the past five years, the gig

economy has gained enormous popularity and is now a highly popular alternative for people to supplement their income. More specifically, 1.6 million workers globally are thought to rely on the gig economy for their income. India currently has 7.7 million gig workers, according to NITI Aayog, and that number is expected to rise to 23.5 million by 2029-2030. "Gig workers" are persons who carry out labor outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship, according to the NITI Report.

The two subgroups of gig workers are workers and non-platform workers. When they interact with customers via online algorithmic matching platforms, such as websites or applications like Amazon or Uber, they are referred to as platform employees. Platform employees play a crucial role in urban India, demonstrating the gig economy's resilience even during the

pandemic. Non-platform employees are the ones who work elsewhere than on these platforms. Construction workers, regular employees, and temporary workers without a technical focus are mainly included in this group.

The government has also been considering methods to expand and assist the gig economy in the nation, and there may soon be a programme to provide loans to gig workers and budding businesses. As more people want to work flexibly, the gig economy is constantly growing. The entire ecosystem can benefit from the government's policies. They are now starting to make use of the talent from many areas, functioning as a catalyst to create this ecosystem more quickly.

The emergence of the gig economy benefits the younger generation of workers considerably by creating new employment options

and different sources of income because gig workers may handle multiple jobs at once. A survey has found that there would likely be 90-110 lakh additions to the gig labor by 2025 as more and more businesses choose to hire workers on a project basis.

This industry has become somewhat more formalized with the rise of app-based models for jobs like delivery and home services. We anticipate this market to expand rapidly in the upcoming years. According to experts, this market will grow greatly and multiply over the next few years.

The key steps that the government must take in order to encourage the growth of platforms and the gig economy are to be taken. To safeguard gig workers and guarantee that businesses are held accountable, the government should develop clear regulations and policies for the gig economy.

BRIEF

Hitachi India

New Delhi: Hitachi India, part of the Japanese conglomerate Hitachi, aims to work towards contributing USD 20 billion in the overall consolidated global revenue for the parent company by 2030 with a 'higher double-digit profit', said Managing Director Bharat Kaushal. By 2030, Hitachi India aims to occupy an "influential position" across rail, energy, and digital, automotive businesses of the group, he said. "Some of the horizontal enablers that support integrating technologies using digital as the catalyst including Artificial Intelligence (AI), hydrogen, and energy storage, will become an important growth driver. We aim to have a higher double-digit profit to the overall Hitachi's consolidated revenues," Kaushal told PTI.

Chemplast Sanmar

Chennai: Chemplast Sanmar Ltd, the flagship company of Sanmar Group has earmarked capital outlay of Rs 680 crore to be spent over the next 15 months towards capacity expansion, the company said on Sunday. The investments include kick starting of the next phase of expansion of its custom manufacturing multi-purpose facility, Chemplast Sanmar Ltd said. Chemplast Sanmar Ltd reported a profit after tax for the quarter ending December 31, 2022 at Rs 27 crore as against Rs 237 crore registered in same quarter of last year.

Nayara Energy

New Delhi: Nayara Energy, India's second largest private oil refining and fuel marketing company, saw its net profit rise by a marginal 2 per cent in the third quarter ended December 31 as the company undertook a month-long maintenance shutdown and windfall tax impacted margins. Net profit of Rs 869.8 crore in October-December compared with Rs 850.3 crore profit in the same period a year back, according to a stock exchange filing by the company. Revenue from operations dropped to Rs 24,757.7 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal from Rs 32,412.9 crore a year back.

ABB India

New Delhi: Electrification and automation major ABB India is expecting that its order book will remain above Rs 10,000 crore and grow further in 2023 in view of momentum in the market, says a top company official. ABB India achieved a significant milestone in order booking by reaching Rs 10,028 crore in calendar year 2022 and Rs 2,335 crore in the fourth quarter (October-December) of 2022. Talking to PTI, country head and managing director of ABB India Sanjeev Sharma said, "Our target is not to fall below Rs 10,000 crore order book where we reached today."

No power can become hurdle between UP and development: Goyal

Lucknow, Feb 12 (PTI):

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday said under the able leadership of Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is moving forward and no power can become a hurdle between the state and development.

He was addressing a session on excise and sugar industry at the UP Global Investors Summit-2023 here.

"There is a wave of development in Uttar Pradesh, and it can be experienced in this meet. Under the able leadership of Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is moving, and no power can become a hurdle between Uttar Pradesh and development," Goyal said.

He also said that until Prime Minister Narendra Modi is personally satisfied, he does not allow ministers to make any promises with the people



and that the prime minister promotes competition in the federal structure. Goyal also said that in the past six years despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UP's excise collection increased from Rs 14,500 crore to Rs 42,500 crore.

The minister highlighted that people of Australia are now becoming dependent on India for wine. Foreigners are liking the wine which is manufactured in India, he said, and added that apart from grapes, 27 other fruits are being used to manufacture liquor and wine. He added that commitment of in-

vestment worth crores of rupees for Uttar Pradesh symbolises the fact that the people know that the law and order will boost the industry, and there is no fear, while working.

"Investors are coming from different parts of the world to Uttar Pradesh. They are also reposing faith in the people of UP that they will vote for the decisive leadership of a double-engine government both in the state and in the country, which will take UP ahead on the path of development," Goyal said.

HE holds the portfolios of Minister of Commerce & Industry; Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution and Textiles. The Union Minister said that six years ago, UP was lagging behind in terms of ease of doing business, and today, it is number two in the country.

Merger of 7 subsidiaries with Tata Steel to complete by FY24: CEO Narendran

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

The merger of 7 subsidiary companies with Tata Steel is expected to be completed in 2023-24 fiscal year, its CEO and managing director T V Narendran said.

In September 2022, Tata Steel board had approved a proposal to merge six of its subsidiaries into itself for greater synergies, higher efficiency and reduce costs.

"We had already announced (merger of) 6 companies earlier. (Merger of) one more Angul Energy we announced recently," he told PTI in reply to a question on the timeline for the merger.



However, the completion of the merger depends on the regulatory processes including NCLT clearances, post which the process is expected to be completed in the next financial year, the CEO said.

"We are dependent on the speed at which we can go through our regulatory requirements," he added. Besides Angul Energy,

the six subsidiaries to be merged with Tata Steel are Tata Steel Long Products (TSPL), The Timplate Company of India, Tata Metaliks, TRF, Indian Steel & Wire Products, and Tata Steel Mining and S&T Mining Company.

When asked about plans of merging recently acquired NINL into Tata Steel, the CEO said there are no such immediate plans.

"As per the terms of purchase with the government, the company is committed to run the new asset as a separate legal entity for three years..after that we can decide what is best for NINL," he said.

GEM opens new outlet

Mumbai, Feb 12:

Godawari Electric Motors, maker of Eblu range of products inaugurated its first showroom Dream Vision in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Backed by world-class technology, the showroom offers customers a differentiating EV buying experience and enhances awareness about EV adoption in the region.

The showroom was inaugurated by B.L Agrawal, CMD, Hira Group. The showroom is spread across 1440 sq. ft., equipped with a 720 sq. ft. service centre facility, and is located at Ashoka Millennium Plaza, Shop No. 3, 4, 5, & 6, Ring Road No.-1, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001.

The key USP of this showroom will be that

customers will have access to 3S facilities offered by Godawari Electric Motors. The showroom will also showcase the journey of the brand and become a single touch point for the end-to-end EV needs of the customers.

Hyder Khan, CEO, Godawari Electric Motors, said, "The inauguration of a new Godawari Electric Motors showroom in Raipur brings us a step closer to the people of Chhattisgarh, helping us collectively pursue the transition to electric mobility with our recently launched Eblu range. We look forward to establishing several new sub-dealers in the region to accelerate EV adoption as we aim to guarantee an inclusive, sustainable and better future for all."

UP to soon have maximum number of domestic flights in India: Jyotiraditya Scindia



Lucknow, Feb 12 (PTI):

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said Uttar Pradesh will soon have the maximum number of domestic flight services in the country. Addressing a session on "Civil Aviation in Uttar Pradesh: The Emerging

Opportunities" on the second day of the three-day Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit-2023 at Vrindavan Yojna here, Scindia said, "Uttar Pradesh will soon become the number one state with the maximum number of domestic flights." He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have rejuvenated the country and Uttar Pradesh, a state that had only two airports earlier and which has nine operational airports now.

Scindia said the land of Ayodhya, Kashi (Varanasi) and Mathura has always shown a new path to the country.

Describing Uttar Pradesh as a favourable destination for investment, he said the state has made great strides in every field. Ten new airports are being built in the state and the land survey work has started for two more, Scindia said, adding that Uttar Pradesh is going to have 21 airports in the coming days.

GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT



Union Minister Anurag Thakur, BJP MPs Hema Malini and Ravi Kishan during the last day of the UP Global Investors Summit, in Lucknow, Sunday, Feb. 12.

FPIs' exodus continues; take out Rs 9,600 cr from equities in Feb

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Foreign investors continue to desert Indian stock markets as they pulled out over Rs 9,600 crore this month so far on costlier valuation of domestic equities compared to other emerging markets. The outflow comes following a net withdrawal of Rs 28,852 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in January. This was also the worst outflow in the last seven months, data with the depositories showed. Prior to that, they made a net investment of Rs 11,119 crore in December and Rs 36,238 crore in November. Going ahead, FPIs flow are expected to remain volatile as Indian equities given the increase in rate by central banks, Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities, said.

Hyundai aims to tap rising demand for aspirational models in rural areas

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Hyundai Motor India is looking to tap growth opportunities in the rural areas with rise in demand for aspirational products like sports utility vehicles and feature-rich models, according to company's Chief Operating Officer Tarun Garg.

The country's second largest carmaker is looking to enhance presence in the smaller towns and rural areas with more sales outlets and also initiatives like deployment of mobile service vans.

The automaker's sales outlets in the rural areas have crossed the 600-mark already and it has also increased its manpower to over 5,000 people in such places. Hyundai's sales in



Hyundai Motor India's Chief Operating Officer Tarun Garg.

the rural areas has crossed the one lakh-mark last year. "Almost 18 per cent of our sales are now coming from rural areas. It used to be about 16.5 per cent. So, we have improved on that front. We touched one lakh retails for the first time last year. We now also have 100 mo-

bile service vans in the rural areas," Garg told PTI in an interaction.

With information about various products readily available now via cell phones and improvement in the road infrastructure, the demand for products that are up in the value chain has gone up in the hinterlands, he said.

"The divide between urban and rural is actually reducing, because so many people are now using data and mobile phones, which means that access to information is also very high," Garg said. The other thing which has happened is that earlier rural markets preferred smaller cars but now there is a huge demand for products like Creta, Venue as well, he noted.

Norway supports India's initiative on multilateralism & rule-based trade: Trade Minister

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Norway's Trade and Investment Minister Jan Christian Vestre has stated that his country fully supports India's efforts in promoting multilateralism and a rules-based trade system.

The minister praised the Indian government's leadership at the G-20 and highlighted the importance of continuing the process of globalization.

"That's an initiative our government supports 100 per cent and we also appreciate your leadership at G-20 and that you are so focused on multilateralism and that we need rules-based trade system," Vestre said in an interview with PTI. The Norwegian minister, who was here on



Norway's Trade and Investment Minister Jan Christian Vestre

a two-day visit to India last week, said that some countries are turning away from the path of globalization.

"We see now that some countries are turning in different directions but it is very important now that we continue this process of globalization free trade, sharing is caring and that will be beneficial for all of

us so all the initiatives from the Indian side that can promote this approach to how should we organize our world will have full support from Norwegian side," the minister emphasised.

He spoke highly of the 2nd India-Nordic summit which held last year, calling it a great success. He expressed pride in the joint statement made by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the five Nordic prime ministers, which he sees as a testament to the strong ties between the two regions.

"We really hope we can gather the prime ministers again, hopefully, next time in Norway, because another thing we will follow up on right now," he added.

India's toy exports touch Rs 1,017 cr during Apr-Dec this fiscal

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

The country's toy exports have touched Rs 1,017 crore during April-December period this fiscal, according to the government data. In 2021-22, the exports stood at Rs 2,601 crore.

"Made in India toys continue to tap global markets! India's toy exports rose to more than 6 times in April-December 2022 as compared to the same period in 2013," commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said in a tweet.

During April-December 2013-14, the shipments were at Rs 167 crore.

The government is taking steps to promote domestic manufacturing and exports of toys from

the country and reduce imports from countries like China, which are of low quality.

In 2018-19, toys worth Rs 2,960 crore were imported into India. With the philosophy of 'vocal for local', the government took several steps to promote indigenous toys designed on Indian culture and history.

The overall import of toys in India reduced by 70 per cent to Rs 870 crore in 2021-22.

In February 2020, import duty on toys was raised from 20 per cent to 60 per cent and now this year to 70 per cent, with an aim to discourage imports. The government is also considering rolling out a fiscal incentive scheme — PLI — for toys.

Harley-Davidson from 1908 becomes priciest bike at auction

Milwaukee (US), Feb 12 (API):

A rare Harley-Davidson motorcycle built in 1908 has become the most expensive motorcycle ever sold at auction, according to data compiled by a website that tracks vintage motorcycle sales.

The Strap Tank Harley-Davidson was recorded on vintagent.com as being sold for USD 935,000 after auction fees last month at the Mecum Auction in Las Vegas, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Friday.

The bike was named Strap Tank because its oil and fuel tanks are attached to the frame with nickel straps. The bike is believed to be one of only



12 such models in the world. A 1907 Strap Tank sold for USD 715,000 after fees but didn't go for as much as the record-setting 1908 Strap Tank because it was never restored. The record-breaking

bike had many of its original parts, making it even more rare, said Greg Arnold, Motorcycle Division Manager at Mecum Auctions.

"We marketed the bike well and Harley is by far

the most famous American motorcycle brand so we had a feeling it would do well in auction, but obviously you are surprised anytime you sell the most expensive bike ever," he said.



Rumours of Urvashi Rautela joining 'Kantara 2' cast are 'baseless, untrue'

The news about actress Urvashi Rautela joining the cast of Rishab Shetty's 'Kantara 2' are reportedly "baseless and untrue."

Urvashi on Saturday had announced on social media with a picture with Rishab stating that she will be seen in the second installment of the film.

A source close to production has come up with the clarification stating that all these rumours are baseless.

A source close to the production house has revealed: "All the rumours around Urvashi Rautela cast in Kantara 2 are to-

tally baseless and untrue."

"Recently, Urvashi Rautela just happened to be on the same premises as Rishab Shetty, where she requested to meet the Kantara fame and he politely obliged. She posted the picture clicked with him with a cryptic caption, giving rise to these completely false rumours."

'Kantara' stars Rishab as a Kambala champion who is at loggerheads with an upright forest officer, Murali (played by Kishore). The story is set and filmed in Keradi in coastal Karnataka.

Picture perfect: Kareena, Saif, Soha and kids pose with Sharmila Tagore

Actress Soha Ali Khan, who will next be seen in 'Chhorii 2', shared a family picture featuring Kareena Kapoor Khan, Saif Ali Khan, Sharmila Tagore and children Ibrahim, Taimur, Jeh and Inaaya.

However, missing in the picture is Saif's sister Saba and daughter Sara Ali Khan.

In the image, the family is seen posing sitting at the dining table. Kareena is seen in a black top and white pants, Saif looks dapper wearing a white kurta, Soha is in a red top and Ibrahim is wearing a red T-shirt.

Jehangir is in Kareena's arms and Taimur is held close by Sharmila.

Soha captioned it: "The pride (minus a couple of cubs)." Soha's sister Saba Ali Khan wrote: "Lovelyyyyy. See u soon!"



On the work front, Sharmila is all set to make her digital debut with

'Gulmohar' with Manoj Bajpayee. Saif has 'Adipurush'. Kareena will

be seen in 'The Devotion of Suspect X' adaptation and 'The Crew'.

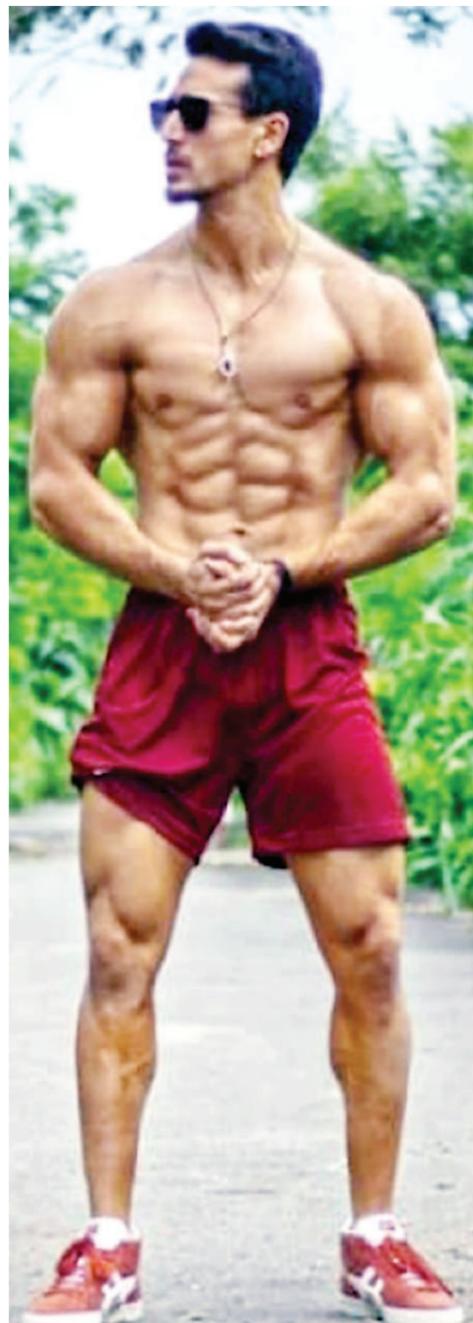
Tiger Shroff's innovative 'warm up' to the sets of 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'

Ditching the comfort of luxury cars, action star Tiger Shroff chose a new way of reaching the sets of his upcoming film 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' - rollerblades. Taking to his social media, Tiger shared a video in which he can be seen rolling up at high speed in his skates while on his way to the sets of 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan'. Jotting down the caption he wrote - "Reached work on time today and warmed up for our intro action sequence #bmcm"

'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan' is directed by Ali

Abbas Zafar and actor Prithviraj Sukumaran will be seen as the antagonist. The movie, which will mark the beginning of an action franchise, is a follow-up to Amitabh Bachchan and Govinda's 1998 hit film 'Bade Miyan Chote Miyan', which was directed by David Dhawan.

Vashu Bhagnani and Pooja Entertainment present Bade Miyan Chote Miyan in association with AAZ film. The film is written and directed by Ali Abbas Zafar, and produced by Vashu Bhagnani, Deepshikha Deshmukh, Jacky Bhagnani, Himanshu Kishan Mehra and Ali Abbas Zafar.



Iqbal Khan celebrates his 42nd Birthday in Dubai

Star Bharat's show 'Na Umra Ki Seema Ho' starring Iqbal Khan is a known face in the television industry. He is a versatile actor who has portrayed compelling characters in numerous serials as well as in films. Currently he is portraying the widely popular role 'Dev' along side Rachana Mistry aka 'Vidhi'. Iqbal Khan who turns 42 years old takes an off from the shoot to celebrate his Birthday in Dubai.

Iqbal Khan overwhelmingly says, "I am thankful to God that I turn a year older and wiser. I'll be celebrating my bday in Dubai this year with my family as it becomes very difficult to usually take an off from work so as a bday gift I've



taken and off from the shoot and will be spending some quality time with my family in this beautiful country Dubai. Also this year my bday will be a little special as my younger daughter will turn 1 year old right after my bday so it's? overwhelming feeling to see kids grow so fast".

Kangana calls Aamir Khan 'bechara' after he praised her at event

Actress Kangana Ranaut trolled Aamir Khan even after he praised her at an event with author Shobha De. She called the superstar "bechara" and that he tried his best to "pretend" like he doesn't know that "I am the only three times national award winning actress." At the book launch of writer Shobha De, Aamir was asked which crop of actors is fit to play her in her biopic. He said Deepika Padukone, Priyanka Chopra and Alia Bhatt. However, Shobha asked him about Kangana. "Yea, she would do it well as well. Kangana would do it well. She is a strong actor, she's very versatile," he said. Kangana, however, thought that Aamir tried his best not to take her name. She wrote on Twitter: "Bechara Aamir Khan a ha ha he tried his best to pretend like he doesn't know that I am the only three times national award winning actress none of those he mentioned has even one a Thank you @DeShobha ji I would love to play you." Kangana added: "Shobha ji and I have opposing political views but that doesn't stop her from acknowledging my art, hard work and dedication to my craft that is the reflection of one's integrity and value system." Wish you the best for your new book ma'am." "Sorry I have four national awards already and a PadmaShri my fans reminded I don't even remember how many I have."



Sumeet and Pariva talk about 'Mature Love'

Love is most definitely in the air! With Valentine's Day right around the corner, we are seeing grand gestures of love to forbidden romances, secret dates and stolen glances. However, people often overlook the hardships of love that come post its early stages. Young love is one thing, but true love comes with maturity, growth and most importantly, togetherness. One such example of mature love is depicted by Rajesh and Vandana Wagle from Sony SAB's Wagle Ki Duniya. Almost two years after its inception, the show and its characters have seen immense growth in all aspects. Be it individually or together, both Rajesh and Vandana have been



through constant ups and downs, but the one thing that has stayed strong is their bond. So, what does it really take to make a relationship last? Do all couples survive the storm that is life?

Sumeet Raghavan and Pariva Pranati open up about the journey of their characters and the true meaning of mature love. Pariva Pranati who essays the role of Vandana Wagle, said, "With Vandana and Rajesh, their relationship is organic. They are both un-



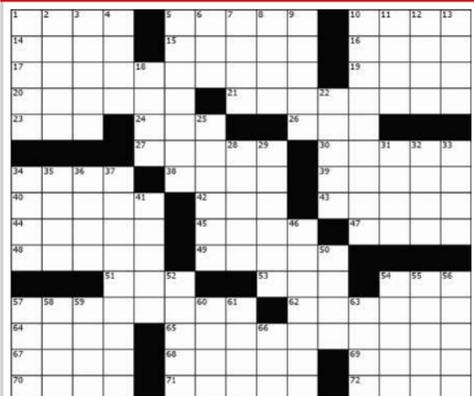
apologetically themselves and have grown to accept each other for who they are. However, this process wasn't instantaneous. They fight, argue and get upset over the tiniest of things, but their ability to forgive

and come back to each other is what gets them through the toughest of times. Vandana's beauty lies in her imperfections and her ability to own up to her mistakes and make them right."

Sumeet Raghavan who plays the character of Rajesh Wagle, said, "Rajesh, to me, is a simple guy. His family and their needs always come first for him. He always looks out for their best interests and sometimes forgets to look after himself. Vandana's child-like innocence brings out Rajesh's fun side and their bond seems effortless." Tune in to watch Wagle Ki Duniya: Nayi Peedhi Naye Kissey only on Sony SAB every Monday to Saturday at 9.00 PM.

CROSSWORD

560



ACROSS

1. Parched
5. Thin candle
10. Rooster's feature
14. Become dim
15. _____ Island
16. Copycat
17. Relaxing initial activity
18. Bus money
20. Motive
21. Painted
23. Snaky shape

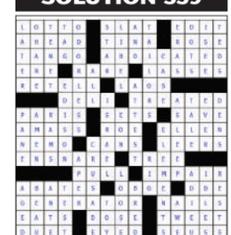
DOWN

24. RR terminal
26. Hair holder
27. Fizzy drinks
30. Put off
34. Chatters
38. California valley
39. Moved upward
40. Land measures
42. Companion
43. Defame
44. Clever
45. Trampled

47. Urgent acronym
48. Bushy fence
49. Blizzard
51. Cup handle
53. Born
54. France's cont.
57. Obvious
62. Unruffled
64. Lima or pinto
65. Food thickener
67. Fasting time
68. Expiate
69. Stack
70. Supplements
71. _____ Pan
72. Abound

32. Between ports
33. Sharp bark
34. Nasty cut
35. Hurt
36. Actor _____ Pitt
37. Certain noncoms
41. Harpoon
46. Bureau
50. Come together
52. Brief review
54. Creepy
55. Aunt's husband
56. Tailor again
57. Skillful
58. Quick look
59. Window section
60. Short message
61. Jogging gait
63. Attentive
66. Compass point (abbr.)

SOLUTION 559



Vasavada guides Saurashtra to Ranji Trophy final



Saurashtra team coach Sitanshu Kotak, captain Arpit Vasavada with players celebrate after the team wins the 2nd semi final of Ranji Trophy match against Karnataka, at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, Sunday.

Bengaluru, Feb 12 (PTI):

Saurashtra secured a place in the Ranji Trophy final for the fifth time in the history of the tournament, defeating Karnataka by four wickets at the Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday. The 2019-20 edition champions scored the required 115 runs for victory on the fifth and final day of the semifinal match to set up a title showdown with

Bengal. It will be a repeat of the 2019-20 summit clash, where Bengal had finished second best. Saurashtra skipper Arpit Vasavada, following his match-altering double century in the first innings that helped the team to a mammoth 527, played another polished knock of unbeaten 47 just when the Karnataka bowlers had reduced the team to 42/5 in the second innings. With Karnataka looking

Brief Scores	
Karnataka 407 and 234 (Mayank Agarwal 55, Nikin Jose 109; Chetan Sakariya 4/45, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 4/79, Parth Bhut 2/57) lost to Saurashtra 527 and 117/6 in 34.2 overs (Arpit Vasavada 47; Krishnappa Gowtham 3/38, Vasuki Koushik 3/32) by four wickets.	

poised to defend a paltry 100-plus total on home turf

and Krishnappa Gowtham (3/38) and Vasuki Koushik (3/32) on fire, the 34-year-old Vasavada remained calm under trying circumstances to guide his side to a hard-fought win in 34.2 overs. Karnataka, whose first innings had folded up at 407 after which Saurashtra slammed 527 to take the crucial first-innings lead, started day five at 123/4 with their in-form batter Nikin Jose on 54.

Ind vs Aus third Test set to be shifted out of Dharamsala: BCCI sources

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

The third Test of the ongoing series between India and Australia scheduled to be played in Dharamsala from March 1 to 5 is all set to be shifted to another venue as the railed outfield is not match ready, according to BCCI sources. It is understood that BCCI curator Taposh Chatterjee visited the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium to inspect the pitch and the outfield. He will submit his report to the top brass of the BCCI for a final call. Bengaluru and Visakhapatnam are among the venues where the third Test can be shifted to. "There are certain BCCI parameters that one needs to fit in in order to host the match. No competitive game has been played on this ground and also the outfield isn't ready," a senior BCCI source said. While 16 days are left for the match to begin, weather in Dharamsala can also play spoilsport as back-to-back international games there were washouts. The outfield has bald areas and forecast of rain in next few days could halt the work under progress. "We have told that given a chance we would like to host the game but it's up to the BCCI to decide. The curator's report would be based on parameters," a HPCA source privy to development said.

I'm confident and positive, says fit-again Sindhu



New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Completely recovered from a stress fracture on the left foot that kept her away from the circuit for five months, a fit-again Indian shuttler PV Sindhu is confident and sounding positive ahead of the ongoing season. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, said her injury has "completely healed" and is aiming to go full throttle this year. Sindhu was sidelined with injury after winning the Commonwealth Games women's singles gold in Birmingham in

body healthy and come back stronger every time. I am confident, positive and learning from my mistakes," the 27-year-old told Badminton World Federation. "My parents were athletes too. The support and motivation they give me keep me going during low moments." Sindhu, who bagged three titles -- Syed Modi India International, Swiss Open and Singapore Open last year -- hopes to replicate her success at the HSBC BWF World Tour this season. "I hope it will be," said the world No.9 shuttler. "You also have to be 100 per cent but I'm completely recovered now. It takes time to get into that rhythm and play tournament matches. I'm on track." Along with Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy, Sindhu will spearhead India's challenge at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships starting Tuesday in Dubai. India, who did not make the knockout stages at the previous edition in 2019 in Hong Kong, have been drawn in Group B along side hosts UAE, frontrunners Malaysia and Kazakhstan.

Nagpur Test exposed Australia's weakness against spin, need to adapt quickly: Ian Chappell



New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

The legendary Ian Chappell feels Australia's capitulation in the first Test against India has exposed their frailties against spin, and said the touring Pat Cummins-led side needs to adapt to the conditions quickly. He asked Australia to stop thinking about pitches in India and just concentrate on their job. Spin duo of

Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja bamboozled Australia on a typical red-soil wicket as the visitors crumbled to their lowest total in India -- 91 -- to suffer an innings defeat inside three days in Nagpur on Saturday. "The first Test has exposed Australia's weakness against good spin bowling on turning pitches," the former Australian captain wrote in his column for ESPNcricinfo. "If they can ensure this setback doesn't mean their mental capacity to cope in India is not dented, it will keep them in the series. If they waver, they are in big trouble," Chappell added. India faced typical pitch doctoring allegations in the build-up to the Nagpur Test but the Australian batting great opined that it was "by no means impossible to play on."

Fit-again Afridi to lead defending champions Lahore in PSL



Islamabad, Feb 12 (AP):

Shaheen Shah Afridi will stage a comeback to competitive cricket after three months out with a freak knee injury to lead defending champions Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League, beginning from Monday. Afridi led Lahore to its maiden PSL title last year in Pakistan's premier domestic Twenty20 tournament that has once again attracted several foreign T20 specialists in a six-team event also featuring two-time champions Islamabad United and past winners Multan Sultans, Karachi Kings, Quetta Gladiators and Peshawar Zalmi.

Real Madrid beats Al-Hilal 5-3 to win 8th Club World Cup

Rabat (Morocco), Feb 12 (AP):

Vincius Junior scored twice and assisted Karim Benzema to lead Real Madrid to its record-extending eighth Club World Cup title by beating Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal 5-3. Federico Valverde added two more goals for the European champions in a final that turned into a shootout on Saturday. Al-Hilal never led but showed it was no fluke that it upset Brazil's Flamengo to reach the decider in Morocco's capital. Vincius has been the target of racist slurs in the Spanish league and even had his effigy hung from a bridge, but has not let that negatively impact his performances. The Brazil forward, who scored the only goal when Madrid beat Liverpool in last season's Champions League final, leads Madrid with 16 across all competi-



Real Madrid players celebrate with the trophy after winning the FIFA Club World Cup final match against Al Hilal at Prince Moulay Abdellah stadium in Rabat, Morocco.

tions. Vincius opened the scoring in the 13th minute and curled home Madrid's fifth and final goal in the 69th. "Vincius has been improving since last season just as the team has also grown. We won the Champions League and now the world title, and

Head may replace Warner in Delhi Test

Sydney, Feb 12 (PTI):

Smarting from a humiliating defeat in the series-opening first Test against India in Nagpur, Australia may replace struggling David Warner with off-spin all-rounder Travis Head in the second match in New Delhi starting February 17, Australian media reported on Sunday. Australia's aspiration to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy suffered a big blow after the visitors lost the Nagpur Test by an innings and 132 runs inside three days on Saturday. Seasoned opener Warner's poor form in the subcontinent continued as he got out for 1 and 10 in the two innings as Australia struggled to get a good start and were bowled out for 91 in the second essay, their lowest total in India. "Sources close to the Australian team confirmed those dis-



cussions were continuing after Warner's double failure in the first Test," reported 'Sydney Morning Herald'. It further added that left-arm finger spinner Matt Kuhnemann also has a "chance" to make his Test debut in New Delhi after being summoned to India as a replacement for reserve leg-spinner Mitch Swepson. Swepson is returning home for the birth of his child.

Australia rout NZ by 97 runs

Begin T20 Women's World Cup title defence in style

Paarl (SA), Feb 12 (PTI):

Australia began their Women's T20 World Cup title defence on a resounding note with a comfortable 97-run win over Trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand here. Alyssa Healy made 55, her highest score in the format since the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup Final, while captain Meg Lanning (41) and Ellyse Perry (40) also contributed with the bat as Australia racked up a competitive 173 for nine after being asked to bat on Saturday. New Zealand endured a forgetful start as Suzie Bates was dismissed with the first ball of their reply and then kept losing wickets in a heap to be bowled out for 76 in 14 overs. Gardner was the chief destroyer with a sublime spell of 5/12, her best T20I bowling figures, as the five-time champions started off with a dominant victory. Beth Mooney only lasted two balls as she poked unconvincingly at Lea Tahuu



and Eden Carson flew to her right to pouch a stunning catch at backward point. Healy and Lanning clubbed together and guided Australia to 47 for one from six overs, their best-ever powerplay score against New Zealand at the T20 World Cup. They assembled a 70-run stand for the second wicket until Amelia Kerr tucked up Lanning and she was bowled playing a cut shot to

a straight delivery. Tahuu found Gardner's leading edge in the next over; Carson taking a simple catch to make it 76 for three. Healy and Perry took over, and raced to a 50 partnership in just 28 balls. Healy perished when she was deceived by Tahuu's slower ball and caught on the fence. Perry and Grace Harris' 8-ball 22-run partnership promised fireworks but fizzled out when the latter was

run out on 14. Perry kept swinging, lifting Amelia Kerr over the cover boundary, but she was dismissed a ball later and then Jess Jonassen departed for a two-ball duck in the same over. There was a late flurry of wickets as Alana King and Tahlia McGrath came and went in the last two overs. The start of the Kiwi reply was a surreal one. Megan Schutt bowled five wides with the first ball and with

Brief Scores	
Australia 173 for nine in 20 overs (Alyssa Healy 55, Ellyse Perry 40; Amelia Kerr 3/23, Lea Tahuu 3/37) beat New Zealand 76 all out in 14 overs (Amelia Kerr 21, Bernadine Beuzidenhout 14; Ashleigh Gardner 5/12, Megan Schutt 2/8).	

the second, bowled Bates who went down for an improbable scoop. Both openers were dismissed within the over as skipper Sophie Devine was trapped LBW. Bernadine Beuzidenhout and Amelia Kerr briefly stabilised the innings. Beuzidenhout reverse swept Jonassen to the fence before departing for 14, caught by Darcie Brown off Perry. The White Ferns sunk to 37 for four after Maddy Green was run out. Kerr was the next to go, bowled by Gardner. The slide continued as Hayley Jensen chipped tamely to midwicket before Tahuu and Rowe were accounted for by Gardner in quick succession. New Zealand lost three wickets for four runs in 11 balls with Gardner taking the final two wickets in the 14th over.

PSG lose again to Monaco on eve of Bayern Munich visit

Paris, Feb 12 (AP):

A weakened Paris Saint-Germain lost a second straight game in all competitions to Monaco 3-1 in the French league, three days before facing Bayern Munich. Monaco climbed to third place, seven points behind a rattled PSG, whose lead was cut to five points after second-placed Marseille beat Clermont 2-0. Undefeated in all competitions from August to December, PSG has become fragile. It lost to Lens and Rennes in the league last month and was knocked out by Marseille in the last 16 of the French Cup on Wednesday. "We have conceded a lot of goals since the restart of the season," PSG coach Christophe Galtier said on Saturday. "We must rediscover our balance, defensively." Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe were out injured but Neymar played. Bayern comes on Tuesday for the first leg in the Champions League round of 16. Wissam Ben Yedder scored twice for Monaco. His blocked shot rebounded for Aleksandr Golovin to beat



Monaco's French forward Wissam Ben Yedder (R) celebrates with team mates after scoring a goal during the French L1 football match between Monaco and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at the Louis II stadium in Monaco.

PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma in the fourth minute. Ben Yedder doubled the lead in the 18th as Monaco pressed high up the

pitch. Krepin Diatta disposed El Chadaille Bitshiabu and Ben Yedder buried an angled strike into the far corner.

INT'L CRAFTS MELA



A stall at the 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela, in Faridabad, Saturday.

50 % of Indore residents suffering from some ailment

Indore, Feb 12 (PTI):

At least half the population of Indore in Madhya Pradesh, adjudged several times as the cleanest city in the country, is afflicted with some ailment as per a survey carried out over the past two months.

The report of the survey helmed by the Indian Medical Association's Indore Chapter and the Red Cross Society will be handed over to civic authorities for further action and remedial measures, local Bharatiya Janata Party Lok Sabha MP Shankar Lalwani told reporters on Saturday. "Nearly one lakh persons were checked at

394 health camps organised in 42 places in the city. The reports of half the persons surveyed were found to be abnormal, the conclusion being made on the basis of eight biomedical scales," Lalwani said.

"Around 48 per cent residents had some abnormality in one test, 9.5 per cent had enhanced blood sugar levels, 17 per cent had high cholesterol levels, 6 per cent had abnormal SGPT, which hints at liver ailments, while 13 per cent had abnormal serum protein levels suggesting low immunity," Lalwani said. The middle class was more affected with such ailments than those from the upper and lower income groups, he added.

Pak's pavilion at Int'l tourism event piques curiosity of visitors

Noida, Feb 12 (PTI):

The presence of Pakistan's pavilion to promote the country at an international travel and tourism event held in Greater Noida near Delhi piqued the curiosity of several visitors.

People mostly enquired about the country's tourist destinations, tourism potential and cultural heritage, said an official at the Pakistan pavilion at the SCO Tourism Mart.

Part of the Shanghai Corporation Organisation (SCO), Pakistan and several other countries showcased their tourism products as well as cultural heritage at the event held as part of activities under

India's presidency of the grouping. The Tourism Mart, organised by the South Asia's Travel and Tourism Exchange (SATTE), was inaugurated by Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy on February 9 and it culminated on February 11.

The international event as part of SATTE's 30th edition saw the participation of around 50 countries, including China and Pakistan, and 28 states of India.

India holds the presidency of the SCO for the year 2023 and as part of tourism track activities, the Union Ministry of Tourism has planned various events and meetings, according to officials.

SEVEN YEARS OF INDIAN ROTI BANK

From UP's Hardoi to over 100 centres in 14 states

Lucknow, Feb 12 (PTI):

An encounter with a old hungry woman outside Lucknow railway station seven years ago inspired the concept of 'Indian Roti Bank' (IRB), which has now spread to 14 states and even crossed the international boundary to countries like Nepal and Nigeria.

The man behind the initiative, Vikram Pandey of Hardoi, said his slogan was 'Bhukha Na Soye Koi-Roti Bank Hardoi'. The 38-year-old Lucknow University graduate celebrated the seventh foundation day of the IRB on February 5.

In a conversation with

PTI, Pandey recalled, "About seven years ago, a woman was begging outside the Lucknow railway station. I did not pay attention to her initially, but she started crying saying she was hungry. So I took her to a food cart, where she ate six to seven 'puris'. She was really very hungry."

"That day I was travelling to Delhi and on the way, I kept thinking about that woman. On returning from Delhi, I started feeding the hungry with help from some of my friends on February 6, 2016. This led to the establishment of the Indian Roti Bank," he added.

Pandey said initially, some local officials en-

couraged him and then with the help of his friends, he started distributing 'rotis' to the hungry.

People kept joining the campaign and after some time, Roti Bank Farrukhabad was started with the slogan 'Khao Piyo, Raho Aabad-Roti Bank Farrukhabad', he said. The movement then continued to grow.

Pandey said the IRB now has branches in more than 100 districts in 14 states and has been successful in providing food to about 12 lakh people.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, IRB volunteers showed their commitment to provide food to the people and it was greatly ap-

preciated, he added.

"My dream is to open a unit of Roti Bank in every district of India. We have more than 100 units working in the country now," Pandey said.

Talking about how the IRB works, he said volunteers collect rotis from families and prepare the vegetables, and pack four rotis with a portion of the vegetables, pickles and chilly. These packets are then distributed to beggars and the hungry and needy at railway stations, bus stations, and public places, Pandey added. Volunteers distribute these roti packets on cycles, motorcycles and vehicles.

21 lakh diyas to be lit in Ujjain On Mahashivratri

Bhopal, Feb 12 (PTI):

Nearly 21 lakh earthen lamps will be lit on February 18 in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain city as part of the 'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam-2023' programme to mark the festival of Mahashivratri, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said. On Mahashivratri last year, 11,71,078 earthen lamps were lit in Ujjain. Now, an attempt will be made to set a Guinness world record by lighting 21 lakh lamps, government officials said. After a meeting held on Saturday to review preparations for the mega event, CM Chouhan in a statement said the festival of Mahashivratri will be celebrated in Ujjain like Diwali on February 18.

"On Mahashivratri, residents of Ujjain will express their dedication to Lord Mahakal by lighting 21 lakh lamps. This unprecedented event will be possible only with the participation of the society and the government," Chouhan stated. Officials informed in the meeting that under the Shiv Jyoti Arpanam programme in Ujjain, earthen lamps will be lit in the city's temples, commercial places, homes, besides the banks of the Kshipra River and important intersections and spots. The prominent places in Ujjain will be lit with electrical decorations and rangoli (colourful patterns), the officials said.

UTTARAKHAND PAPER LEAK CASES

'No other CM brought cheating mafia to book'

Dehradun, Feb 12 (PTI):

The Uttarakhand government has acted "boldly" against the "cheating mafia" by bringing a strict anti-copying law and sending those guilty to jail, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said on Sunday, hitting out at those blaming him for a series of recruitment exam question paper leaks.

"It is 22 years since the creation of Uttarakhand. Those opposing me should ask themselves which chief minister sent people involved in paper leak cases to jail. Which chief minister brought the sternest anti-copying law in the country," Dhama said after in-



Pushkar Singh Dhama

acted "boldly against the cheating mafia by sending 60 of them behind bars and introducing the country's sternest anti-copying law". People must ask themselves which government showed the courage to lay its hands on the "cheating mafia", Dhama said.

The chief minister said a severe anti-copying law has been brought into force in the state and it has a provision for maximum sentence of life imprisonment for those indulging in or facilitating use of unfair means in recruitment examinations. It also has a provision for a fine of up to Rs 10 crore, he said. "Did any other government show this courage?" Dhama asked.

inaugurating a games and cultural festival at the Kalsi area in Dehradun district.

He said that he was advised not to attend the function on Sunday as he could face opposition. Nevertheless, the chief minister said, he decided to come as he knew he

SAND ART WITH A DIFFERENCE



Sand art of Taj Mahal with the logo of G20 has been made on the bank of the River Yamuna, in Agra, Sunday.

Sea of saffron at event to kick off 200th birth anniv celebrations

Of Dayanand Saraswati

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Sporting saffron headgears and scarves, people of all ages have gathered in large numbers at an event here to mark the beginning of year-long celebrations commemorating the 200th birth anniversary of social reformer Dayanand Saraswati.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the celebrations at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Sunday. He also unveiled a logo for the anniversary celebrations at the event, being described as 'Gyan Jyoti Parv'. The



PM Modi during the inauguration of the year-long celebrations to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, in New Delhi, Sunday.

gathering of Saraswati's followers, most of them wearing saffron headgears and scarves bearing Vedic texts, virtually turned the stadium into a sea of saffron as chants of sacred mantras reverberated around the venue. An exhibi-

tion on the social reformer's legacy and the institutions established guided by Saraswati's vision is also being hosted on the stadium premises. Born in 1824, Saraswati worked to counter the social inequities prevalent at the

time. Arya Samaj has played a key role in the country's cultural and social awakening with its emphasis on social reforms and education, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement on Saturday. During a meeting

in January, Modi called upon academic and cultural institutions across the country to produce well-researched work on the contributions of the great visionary and social reformer, as well as the Arya Samaj - which will complete 150 years of existence in 2025.

Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj in 1875. Modi, who arrived at the venue around 11 am, was welcomed on the dais by chants of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and invoking the name of Saraswati. Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy, and ministers of state for culture Meenakshi Lekhi and Arjun Ram Meghwal shared the dais with Modi and the other dignitaries.

Women spend 7.2 hrs on unpaid domestic work compared to 2.8 hrs spent by men

Ahmedabad, Feb 12 (PTI):

Women in the working age category of 15 to 60 years spend 7.2 hours on unpaid domestic work compared to 2.8 hours spent by men, indicating they have "time poverty", as

per a research conducted by a professor from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. Even wage-earning women spend twice the amount of time on unpaid domestic work in comparison to wage-earning men in fulfilling basic needs of the household such as cleaning, preparing meals and caregiving, says

the research which is based on the Time Use Survey (TUS) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

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BRIEF



A child creates soap bubbles with a toy gun during the 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela, in Faridabad, Sunday.

Quake

Guwahati: An earthquake of 4 magnitude hit the central part of Assam on Sunday, an official bulletin said. There was no immediate report of any loss of life or damage to property, it said. The earthquake was recorded at 4:18 pm, and the epicentre was in Nagaon district on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra river, the National Center for Seismology said in a report.

Tigress dead

Rishikesh: A tigress was found dead in the buffer zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve on Sunday, an official said. The carcass was found in an area close to the Badanghar canal in Almora forest division from where the half eaten body of a woman was recovered on Thursday, Chief Conservator of Forests (Kumaon) Prasanna Kumar Patra said.

Convicts

Mumbai: A court here has convicted nine people for committing a heist of Rs 1.65 crore at a businessman's house by posing as Income Tax officers and sentenced six of them to 10 years' imprisonment and three others to five-year jail term. The crime was "serious in nature," Additional Sessions Judge, Dindoshi court, M I Lokwani said in the order passed on February 1.

Compensation

Mumbai: The Maharashtra government on Sunday a financial aid of Rs 25 lakh will be given to the kin of journalist Shashikant Warishe who was mowed down by an SUV allegedly driven by a land dealer in Ratnagiri district. The government will also give a permanent job to the son of the deceased, Ratnagiri district guardian minister Uday Samant said.

Injured

Thane: Four workers were injured in a fire that broke out at a chemical factory in Maharashtra's Thane district on Sunday afternoon, an official said. The blaze was reported from Badlapur MIDC at 12:50pm and four fire engines from Kulgaoon Municipal Council and Anand Nagar MIDC were deployed for dousing operations, he said.

Watery grave

Haridwar: A 21-year-old IIT Roorkee student drowned in the Ganga here on Sunday while bathing in the river, police said. Siddharth who hailed from Nagaur in Rajasthan was in Haridwar along with other students and a professor for a project, Shyampur police station SHO Vinod Thapliyal said.

Weather
High 31 Low 12

Biswa Bhusan Harichandan appointed 7th Guv of Chh'garh

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):



The government on Sunday appointed six new faces as governors, including retired Supreme Court judge S Abdul Nazeer, who was part of the historic 2019 Ayodhya verdict, and four BJP leaders, besides carrying out a rejig of the gubernatorial posts in seven states.

According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesperson, President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the resignations of Bhagat Singh Koshyari and R K Mathur as the governor of Maharashtra and the lieutenant governor of Ladakh respectively.

Ramesh Bais, who was the governor of Jharkhand, has been appointed governor of Maharashtra, the official said. Koshyari, 80, took charge as Maharashtra governor in September 2019 at a time of a political turmoil in the state following Shiv Sena

severing its ties with the BJP. He administered the oath of office to Devendra Fadnavis as the chief minister and NCP leader Ajit Pawar as the deputy chief minister, which lasted only three days.

When the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi was in power, he had several run-ins with the government on a range of issues, including the appointment of 12 members to the state legislative council from the gubernatorial quota, which he never approved. The MVA had accused him of acting in a partisan manner.

The latest controversy

Ramesh Bais new Guv of Maha

Ramesh Bais, who was the governor of Jharkhand, has been appointed governor of Maharashtra, the official said.



Koshyari, who has been in the line of opposition fire over his remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji, said last month that he had conveyed his desire to quit to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that he would like to spend the remainder of his life reading, writing and in other activities.

surrounding Koshyari was about his remarks on Chhatrapati Shivaji, whom he described as the "icon of olden times". The remarks triggered protests from the opposition parties, who de-

Six new Governors

Lakshman Prasad Acharya, C P Radhakrishnan, Shiv Pratap Shukla, Gulab Chand Kataria, Lt Gen Parthaik (retd) and Lt Gen Kaiwalya Trivikram Parthaik (retd) have been appointed as governors of Sikkim, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Assam respectively.

Anusuiya Uikye shifted to Manipur

Other than Bais, Mishra and Harichandan, the other transfers included the shifting of Anusuiya Uikye from Chhattisgarh to Manipur, La. Ganesan from Manipur to Nagaland, Phagu Chauhan from Bihar to Meghalaya and Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar from Himachal Pradesh to Bihar.

Retired SC Judge new AP Guv

Justice Nazeer, a former Supreme court judge, is appointed as the new governor of Andhra Pradesh. Justice Nazeer, who retired on January 4, has been part of several path-breaking verdicts, including those on the politically sensitive Ayodhya land dispute, instant 'triple talaq' and the one that declared 'right to privacy' a fundamental right.

manded that he be sacked. It was not immediately known what reasons prompted Mathur's resignation. Mathur has been facing stiff opposition led by noted education reformist

Sonam Wangchuk in the three-year-old Union territory. The President appointed Governor of Arunachal Pradesh Brig B D Mishra (retd) in his place, the spokesperson said.

Literary figure, former minister: Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

Raipur, Feb 12:

Biswabhusan Harichandan (born 3 August 1934) has been appointed as the 7th and current Governor of Chhattisgarh. Biswa Bhusan Harichandan was elected to the Odisha assembly five times — twice from the Chilka assembly constituency, from 1977 to 1980 as a Janata Party candidate and from 1990 to 1994 as a Janata Dal nominee, and thrice as a BJP candidate from the Bhubaneswar assembly segment.

Life and career
Born on August 3, 1934, Harichandan has been a prominent face of non-Congress politics in Odisha. After completing his law degree, he began his career as an advocate and joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1971. He became its national executive member and general secretary of the Odisha unit till the formation of Janata Party in 1977. He was among a few from Odisha detained under the controversial Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) in 1975

Awards

Harichandan was awarded the Kalinga Ratna Award in 2021.

Books

Harichandan has authored several books some of which include Marubataas, Mahasangram Mahanayak, Buxi Jagabandhu, Paika Mutiny and his autobiography Sangarsha Sarinahin.

during the Emergency under then prime minister Indira Gandhi. Harichandan later joined the BJP after its formation and was its Odisha unit president from 1980 to 1988. He switched to Janata Dal when it was formed through the merger of Janata Party factions and some other political parties in 1988. He became the vice-president of the Janata Dal in Odisha for some years before he rejoined BJP in April 1996.

In July 2019, he was appointed the 23rd Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

CJs appointed to 4 HCs; 2 to retire soon

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Four judges, including two who will retire later this month, were on Sunday appointed as chief justices of high courts.

Justice Sonia Giridhar Gokani, the senior-most judge of the Gujarat High Court, was appointed its chief justice. Once she takes oath, she will be the only woman chief justice of a high court at present. India has 25 high courts.

Another woman judge, Justice Sabina, is functioning as the acting chief justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.

However, Justice Gokani will demit office on February 25 upon at-

taining the age of 62. She has been drawn from the judicial service of Gujarat. "Besides being the senior-most judge, the appointment of Justice Gokani as chief justice will bring a sense of inclusion and facilitate a representation for judges drawn from the services in the office of chief justice," the Supreme Court Collegium had said last week while recommending her name.

The Collegium had asked the government to "immediately" appoint her as the chief justice following the elevation of Justice Aravind Kumar, the high court chief justice till now, as a judge of the Supreme Court.

DUTY FIRST

Doctors assist in childbirth over WhatsApp call

Srinagar, Feb 12 (PTI):

With snowfall ruling out the possibility of airlift, a pregnant woman who had a history of labour complications in the remote Keran in Jammu and Kashmir was assisted by doctors in delivering a healthy baby over a WhatsApp call.

"On Friday night, we received a patient in labour at the Keran PHC (primary health centre) with history of complicated delivery with eclampsia, prolonged labour and episiotomy," Block Medical Officer of Kralpora Dr Mir Mohammad Shafi said. An air evacuation was required to take the patient to a hospital with maternity facilities as Keran remained cut off from the rest of Kupwara district during the winter.

PM inaugurates Delhi-Mumbai Expressway Phase 1

Dausa, Feb 12 (PTI):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a 246-km section of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Dausa on Sunday.

The Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot stretch is set to reduce the travel time between the national capital and Jaipur considerably.

The PM pressed the button of a remote to mark the foundation laying/inauguration of a total four projects, including the first phase of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, worth more than Rs 18,000 crore.

Modi said when the government invests in highway projects, ports, railways, optical fibre, and



PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot section of Delhi Mumbai Expressway, in Dausa, Sunday.

opens medical colleges, it gives strength to traders, small shopkeepers and industries. "Investment on infrastructure attracts more investment."

Developed at a cost of more than Rs 12,150 crore,

this first completed section of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway will provide a major boost to the economic development of the entire region.

Modi said the new section will reduce the travel

time between Jaipur and Delhi to half.

The PM said those who travel to Delhi for work can now come back to home in the evening after finishing their task. The PM said that rural 'haats' are being developed around the expressway where the local artisans can sell their article.

He said the expressway will benefit the Sariska National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Ranthambore National Park as well as cities such as Jaipur and Ajmer.

Rajasthan is already known for its tourism sector and the attraction will increase further with the new infrastructure project, the prime minister said.

'India running on tracks of heritage, development'



New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

India is expressing pride over its legacy with tremendous self-respect and is asserting that it will strengthen its traditions while ushering in modernity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday. He also said that the country's policies and efforts have no discrimination, and are aimed at serving the poor, the backwards and the deprived on priority. Modi made the remarks

after inaugurating celebrations commemorating the 200th birth anniversary of social reformer and Arya Samaj founder Dayanand Saraswati. The prime minister also unveiled the logo of the birth anniversary celebrations. Modi said India is showing the way to the world in the field of environment. He also said it was a matter of pride that India was chairing the G20 this year. "The country today with tremendous self respect is expressing pride over its legacy. The country is saying with full self-confidence that we will strengthen our traditions while ushering in modernity," Modi said. The country is running on the tracks of 'virasat (heritage)' and 'vikas (development)', the prime minister said.

SHOWCASING TALENT



Children perform at a cultural programme during the inauguration of the year-long celebrations to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, in New Delhi, Sunday.

GAME-CHANGER

'AI can improve quality of legal practice'

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Artificial intelligence (AI) should not be viewed as a threat, but as an opportunity to enhance the quality of legal practice, Supreme Court judge Hima Kohli



has said, terming it a "game-changer" in the legal field that has the potential to revolutionise the way lawyers work. Justice Kohli, however, flagged ethical concerns about the "accountability, transparency and protection of rights of parties", which may crop up with the use of AI in the legal field.

WORLD RADIO DAY TODAY

'Just tune in, radio's charm persists on simplicity, accessibility'

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

"You had your time, you had the power, you've yet to have, your finest hour; radio" Thirty-nine years after Queen's cult song "Radio Ga Ga" rocked the airwaves, listeners are agreed the best may still be around the corner for that much loved, so familiar and evolving with the times audio device. Quite simply, the radio.

It was sometime in the 1960s. Nemichand Barola was about 10. And members vividly melodious tunes from Radio Ceylon

playing from a radio in a tiny paan shop in his hometown Ajmer adding to lazy afternoon vibes. Some decades later, Barola, now a retired school principal, still prefers radio over television and turns to it for an odd little melody from his younger days and the essential news broadcast from an All India Radio channel.

"Radio doesn't disturb me when I am writing or doing any work, it is not possible with TV or mobile phones. I don't have to stop my work to listen to the radio," Barola told PTI. It's his connect

from his yesterday to his present, the great societal leveller that binds cities to villages, rich to poor. Once a lifeline to keep in touch with music trends, cricket matches, and the news in distant corners of the country and still a mainstay for many.

On the eve of World Radio Day on Monday, it is the simplicity, reach and accessibility of the medium that still connects the likes of Barola to the old-worldly charm of the radio in an age of innumerable news channels and music streaming services, say experts.

Shahabuddin Chuppu is next B'desh president

Dhaka, Feb 12 (PTI):

M o h a m m a d Shahabuddin Chuppu, a former judge and freedom fighter, is set to become Bangladesh's next president after the ruling Awami League, which holds an absolute majority in Parliament, nominated him for the top post.

Chuppu, 74, will replace President Mohammad Abdul Hamid, whose tenure ends on April 24.

"The Election Commission (EC) has received his (Chuppu's) nomination paper submitted by Bangladesh Awami League," a spokesman of the independent statutory body said. He said the EC



would now accomplish the procedural formalities for his election by Members of Parliament. The Awami League has 305 seats in the 350-member House.

The tenure of Hamid, the longest-serving president of the country, will end on April 23, and according to the Constitution, he cannot hold a third term.

First National Lok Adalat disposes of 16090 cases

Total settlement amount sums up to Rs 10.92 crore

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 12: The first National Lok Adalat of the year 2023 was organized on Saturday. In Durg District, benches were constituted in District Court Durg, Civil Court Bhilai-3 and Civil Court Patan, Juvenile Justice Board, Labour Court and Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services) Durg was formed.

A total of 3136 court cases and a total of 12954 pre-litigation cases were resolved in the National Lok Adalat. The total settlement amount was Rs 10 crore 92 lakh 34 thousand. In the resolved cases, 510 criminal cases, 33 cases of claims, family cases, 102 cases of cheque dishonor, 210 civil cases, 89 cases of Juvenile Justice Board, 89 cases of labour disputes and 157 cases of Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services) were resolved.

In the first National Lok

Benches for Family Court Durg, 24 Benches for District Court Durg, 01 Bench for Tehsil Court Patan, 02 Benches for Tehsil Court Bhilai-3, 01 Bench for Juvenile Justice Board, 01 for Labour Court and 01 Bench for Permanent Lok Adalat (Public Utility Services) Durg was formed.

The National Lok Adalat was inaugurated at 10.30 am by lighting lamps and garlanding the portrait of Goddess Saraswati. Principal Judge of Family Court, Narendra Singh Chawla, First Additional District and Sessions Judge Sanjeev Kumar Tamak, and all the judges were present in the inauguration program.

A total of 33 benches were constituted for the National Lok Adalat. 03

Advocates did not attend proceedings

As per the decision of the District Bar Association, the practicing lawyers of Durg District did not attend the National Lok Adalat. For smooth conduct of the conciliation proceedings, 66 advocates were appointed as members for 33 benches of the Lok Adalat. But most of them remained absent and did not participate in the proceedings. District Bar Association office bearers claimed that not a single case was settled on the day of National Lok Adalat in Durg as the Advocates remained away from the proceedings. However, there were thousands of cases in which the settlement process was conducted in advance. The orders of all these cases were issued during the National Lok Adalat.



Adalat of this year, there were some important cases which were resolved. In a total of 33 motor accident claim cases, the parties were ordered to pay compensation of more than Rs 2 crores.

Before the bench of Sanjeev Kumar Tamak, a land possession dispute was settled through mutual compromise. In pursuance of the notice issued for the National Lok Adalat organized on February 11, two female

neighbours living in Gujarat appeared before the bench of Santosh Thakur. The criminal case was disposed of by mutual compromise. The parties attended the National Lok Adalat through video conferencing.

Before the bench of Tajuddin Asif, the three parties appeared in the proceedings from Tata Memorial Hospital Jamshedpur, Hyderabad and Pune. The case was disposed of through mutual compromise.

Mayor and MLA attend bhoomipujan for dome shed at Kosa Nagar



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 12: A dome shed will be constructed at a cost of Rs 10 lakhs near Kosa Nagar Rashne Awas, Budh Vihar Complex in Ward No. 5 of Bhilai Municipal Corporation. On Sunday, bhoomipujan was performed by the residents of the locality in the presence of MLA Devendra Yadav, Mayor Neeraj Pal, BMC Speaker Girwar Buntay Sahu, District Congress Committee President Mukesh Chandrakar and MiC member Sandeep Nirankari.

With the construction of the dome shed, the residents of the locality will get convenience for organizing various programs. They will not face difficulties in organizing the event even in rain and scorching sun. It needs to be mentioned here that the locals have been raising the demand for a dome shed in their locality. Local Corporator Sandeep Nirankari made efforts in this direction and got the work approved with the support of Mayor Neeraj Pal. A large number of locals were present at the event.

HSCL issues circular for higher pension option

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 12: Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) has issued a circular on February 10, 2023 informing the employees who retired before November 01, 2014 on attaining the age of 58 years to file application for higher pension.

The eligible Pensioners may apply Digitally / Online at www.epfindia.gov.in for validating their options, if any, by the concerned Regional Office.

The eligible pensioners include the Pensioner, who as employee had contributed under Paragraph 26(6) of EPF Scheme on salary exceeding the prevalent wage ceiling of Rs 5000 or Rs 6500 and Exercised Joint Option under the proviso to Para 11(3) of the Pre-amendment scheme while being member of EPS'95 and Their exercise of such option was declined by PF authorities.

Very recently the form for making applications has been published in

the EPFO website and so all the Pensioners who retired before 01.09.2014 may submit application in that form only Digitally / Online at www.epfindia.gov.in and not manually through self prescribed format. For this purpose the pensioners need to access the UAN Portal of EPFO website.

The Pensioners retiring before 01.09.2014 will make their application only Digitally / Online through the relevant link given in the UAN portal of EPFO website.

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 12: A meeting of the Shri Ram Janmotsava Samiti was held on Sunday at Sector 9 to conduct discussion for the preparations of the upcoming Shri Ram Navami Mahaparva. Committee Patron and former Vidhan Sabha Speaker Prem Prakash Pandey called upon all the office bearers and members to celebrate this great festival with enthusiasm.

Various topics were discussed in the meeting including the proposed campaign "Ek Mutthi Dhaan -

Prabhu Shri Ram Ke Naam". Under this campaign, the members of Shri Ram Janmotsava Samiti would reach every household of Steel City and seek donation of a handful of paddy.

Prem Prakash Pandey further said that Shri Ram Navami is a significant festival for all of us. The birth anniversary of Lord Shri Ram is celebrated in a grand manner on this day. Shri Ram Janmotsava will be celebrated for the 38th consecutive year in a grand manner by the Samiti.

Pandey said that every member of the committee



should start making efforts to make this festival a success. They should work to include more and more people with the organization from block and

sub-division level. Youth Wing President Manish Pandey said that the campaign "Ek Mutthi Dhaan, Prabhu Shri Ram ke naam" will be launched

in the first week of the month of March.

For this campaign, meetings will be organized at the Prakhand and Khand level in the coming days and the plan to make it successful and reach the people will be discussed with the members.

Pandey said that on the occasion of Shri Ram Navami, this year the committee has set a target of connecting 51000 members with the committee. In this sequence, a free membership campaign will be run by the committee, as well as every member will be honored with a saffron flag.

Divisional Commissioner issues show cause notices to absent officials

Kavre conducts surprise inspection at Forest Department and Water Resources Division



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 12: Divisional Commissioner Mahadev Kavre conducted a surprise inspection of the Divisional and District Offices of the Forest Department and Water Resources Division the other day. He instructed the officials to remain present in the office during the working hours.

The Divisional

Commissioner first reached the office at 10:30 am, where he reprimanded the employees coming late and gave strict instructions to attend the office during office hours under any circumstances.

He checked the attendance register and found that a total of eight officials including Illurani Dutta, Abhilasha and N Ramakrishna were absent. Show cause notices



were served to them. After this, he inspected the office of Chief Conservator of Forests.

Kavre reached this office around 10:40 am and served show cause notice to 08 absent employees including Vijay Rathore, Maya Dwivedi, Tarun Meshram, Madhu Sharma and Gayatri Verma.

The Divisional Commissioner directed to

keep name plates on the tables of all the employees in the Forest Department office and also directed to keep the information boards of the Public Service Guarantee Act clearly visible.

The Divisional Commissioner inspected the district office of the Water Resources Department. He reached this office around 10:50 am and served show cause no-

tices to 03 employees who were absent. He also instructed all employees to be present at the office during working hours.

The Divisional Commissioner expressed happiness over the department following the instructions given in the last inspection regarding cleanliness and systematic maintenance of files. Similarly, he gave instructions for systematic maintenance of documents in other departments.

Expressing strong displeasure over the absence of officers/employees during inspection in the offices, Divisional Commissioner Kavre reprimanded the concerned office heads and gave them clear instructions to keep control over their subordinates.

Sixth batch of tribal youth departs for Bhubaneswar



Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Jan 12: Under the 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme, Border Security Force has selected and sent 20 tribal youth from Kanker for a tour to Bhubaneswar. It is the sixth group of tribal youth sent on tour of other cities under this programme. The group of tribal youth is being accompanied by one female and two male officers / personnel of Border Security Force. BSF is organizing fourteen such tours this

year for about 290 youth. Under this exposure visit, the tribal youth will be able to understand the cultural ethos, language, lifestyles of the people depicting Socio-economic and Cultural Development and Development process unity in the diversity aspect of our national life. They will be exposed to the technological and industrial advancement that have taken place in different states of the country with focus on various developmental activities, skill development, educa-

tional and employment opportunities available there. They will be sensitized about their rich traditional & cultural heritage. This programme will help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self esteem. IG Indraj Singh (BSF Frontier Headquarters, Special Operations, Chhattisgarh) and DIG (Intelligence) Dinesh Murmu have extended greetings and best wishes to the selected youth.

Collector inspects under construction projects in Patan

Central Chronicle News

Bhilai, Feb 12: Patan Bus Stand will now be swept at intervals of every two hours. Recently, Collector Pushendra Kumar Meena inspected the bus stand in Patan city. He asked the CMO about the status of sanitation. The CMO replied that cleaning is done once in the morning.

The Collector expressed displeasure on the existing arrangements. He said that a large number of passengers come to Patan bus stand. For the passengers to have a better experience at the bus stand, it is necessary to have good cleanliness. He made a roster of cleaning and instructed

the officials to execute.

He also instructed to issue a notice to the CMO if the cleaning arrangements are not improved. Along with this, a notice was also issued to the engineer and architect for irregularities found in various construction works. It needs to be mentioned here that street vendors were doing business in a haphazard manner in the bus stand.

The Collector asked them to make arrangements like Nehru Nagar vending zone. Due to the better facilities available in the vending zone, the business of these traders will also increase and the customers will also like



the arrangements. Bus stand complex is also being prepared here which has 34 shops.

Some traders were not taking care of cleanliness in the bus stand, on which

the Collector asked the CMO to serve notices to such shopkeepers. District Panchayat CEO Ashwini Dewangan and SDM Vipul Gupta were also present. A beautiful auditorium



is being built for entertainment in Patan. With the completion of this 300 seater auditorium, artistic activities will get a boost in Patan. The Collector gave suggestions regard-

ing the auditorium. He said that the distance of the audience gallery from the stage should be increased so that the audience gets a good view of the stage.

Also, he asked to increase the length and height of the stage slightly so that it could be more useful for the audience. He also asked to increase the number of washrooms. He also instructed to make a good system of cooling through tower AC.

The Collector also inspected the Hi-Tech nursery located at Sikola. He asked to plant more saplings of Kadamba, Kachanar and Badam etc so that all the saplings are available from this nursery as per the local requirement for plantation.

The Collector also saw the multipurpose complex. Along with the sports infrastructure, a state-of-

the-art library is also being established here. The Collector said that a good library has a good system of lighting and ventilation. Keep these things in mind while building the library. A swimming pool is also being prepared here to promote the players in swimming.

The Collector said that it should be in line with international standards so that the players can prepare according to this standard and make their place for the competitions held in the country and abroad. The Collector also saw the construction work of the school located in Akhra.

'BJP should get Naxal murder probed by NIA'

- CM on BJP's allegation of conspiracy
- Says we have no objection to probe by any central agency



Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who returned from the meeting, spoke to journalists at Raipur helipad. On the question related to BJP's allegations, he said, Naxalites are not denying the incident, are they? Our police was investigating the murder of

Bhima Mandavi, but they sent NIA and does anyone know what came in the NIA report, he questioned. There is no denying the fact that Bhima Mandavi was killed in Naxal attack and police are investigating into the incident, Baghel said while talking to the reporters in Raipur Helipad after his return from 'Bhent Mulakat' programme. NIA can take up the responsibility of probing the incident, Baghel said. Baghel claimed that Naxalites were resorting to such killings by realising that they became weak. According to him Naxalites have changed their strategy. Earlier they used to attack first but now they are indulging in killing by going to homes. This means that they have lost their strength, he said.

He said that 600 villages were freed from clutches of Naxalites which showed strength of brave jawans. Naxalites have retreated and this is the work and dare of the district and state police and CRPF jawans. At the same time 300 schools have been re-started, which were closed-down during BJP's rule. If one takes a look at the statistics, then one will see that last year lowest number of individuals have got injured or died. At the same time, there are only few incidents of looting of weapons from jawans by the naxalites. In this way, CM Baghel claimed that it is evident that naxalites have retreated and all this is possible through government's confidence, development and state's security policy.

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NSS students of FNGC create public awareness

- On social-economic issues thru folk dance, 'nukkad natak'

Central Chronicle News

Nayapara-Rajim, Feb 12: The folk culture at the dais No. 2-3 of Rajim Maghi Punni Mela was visible today. The Indian Youth Red Cross Society and NSS students from Panikeshwar Nath Govt College, (FNGC) Fingeshwar on the subject of 'better sanitation' staged a public awareness programme here on Sunday.

Under this through cultural programme, 'nukkad natak' and folk dance they created public awareness on social issues, economic problems.

In this a total of 55 NSS workers from the College took part. They gave wonderful performance under guidance of programme officer Devdas Banjare, Asst. Prog Officer Ritesh Golcha,



Mahendra Bharadwaj. The head of NSS Chiteshwar Sahu, Bharti Sahu, Ambika Yadav, Yamini Nishad, Khumeshwar Sahu, Jhumes Kumar, Neha Sahu, Manisha Sahu and others were present. Purshtam Yadav from Banskunda Mahasamund

performed 'Raut Nacha' and enthralled the audience. It is by using ancient instruments viz. 'Nisan', 'Kundungi', 'Dafada', 'Mohari', 'Gudum' that they left an everlasting impression. Prashant Sonwani of Kathouli performed 'Ramayan' and

Uttam Sahu of Dutkaiyya performed folk dance. Jagannath Patel of Rajim presented 'Jasgeet' and Sunita Sahu of Bhavanipur Balodabazar presented 'Pandwani'. The programme was conducted by Manoj Sen, Durgesh Tiwari, Mahendra Panth.

Congress encouraging target killing of BJP workers: BJP



Raipur, Feb 12: Sensing its imminent defeat in forthcoming assembly elections in Chhattisgarh the Congress has resorted to the conspiracy of target killing of BJP workers, said BJP state president Arun Sao. BJP workers are being killed through politicization of the administration and this is not a coincidence, he said while addressing a press conference here today.

targeted under a well-planned conspiracy, he said, adding that 4 workers of BJP have been murdered in the last 30 days. Alleging that such brutal murders are taking place under the patronage of the Congress government he said that Congress remained silent on all such incidents. Realising that it is going out of power Congress indulged in conspiracy of target killing to win elections, he said.

Congress understands that killing of BJP workers in violence will dampen the enthusiasm of BJP workers, said Sao. One murder in Jagdalpur, one in Narayanpur, one in Bijapur and one in Dantewada, an atmosphere of terror is being created everywhere by killings, he said. According to him BJP workers have always laid down their lives for the establishment of peace. 'We are followers of Dr Syama Prasad Mukherjee and we have made sacrifices in Kashmir besides taking historic steps to bring Kashmir on the path of peace and abolish Article 370 and 35A', he said.

against the BJP workers on two fronts- on one side, murders are being carried out and on the other BJP workers are being repressed by the police and are being put in jail, he said. He said that more than a dozen BJP leaders and workers were sent to jail in Narayanpur, on false charges against them for opposing conversion under government patronage. But BJP workers are strongly fighting the excesses of this cowardly government, he said. Party's State General Secretary OP Choudhary, State Media Incharge Amit Chimmami and State Co-Media Incharge Anurag Agrawal were present in the press conference.

Yadav samaj takes out massive 'Hunkar Rally'

Raipur, Feb 12: Recalling the sacrifices of martyrs and paying rich tributes to them at Shaheed Smarak Bhavan, Raipur, it was under leadership of Padamshri recipient Phulbasan Yadav, social worker and patron CG Pragatisheel Yadav Mahasangh (CGPYM) Avadh Narayan Yadav, Nirmala Yadav, ex-Mayor Bhilai that hundreds of members of Yadav Samaj took out a massive 'Yadav Hunkar Rally' here on Saturday.



The main convener of 'Yadav Hunkar Rally' and Sr. V.P. CGPYM Shobha Yadav informed that it is after sidelining of the principle of 'one's share and equal representation' by the state government and the district administration, the members of Yadav Samaj are very much annoyed. She informed that with around 22-23 lakh Yadav population in Chhattisgarh, it accounts to around 11-12% of entire pop-

ulation and due to sidelining by the state government it has hurt their sentiments. As a result of which the members of Yadav Samaj took out 'Yadav Hunkar rally' to awaken the government for social justice and termed it just as a beginning. General secretary Niranjan Singh Yadav informed that as & when the pride and prestige of Yadav Samaj has been hurt, till then the 'vanshajs' of Lord

Krishna have exhibited their dare and courage and with organisational ability and uniting together, they have come forward to save their prestige. Terming this 'Hunkar Rally', just as a trailer, he made a declaration of taking out a massive 'Shobha Yatra' on occasion of 'avatara diwas' of 'Ishtdev' of Yadav Samaj-Lord Shri Krishna celebrated as Krishna Janmashtami in Sept 2023.

Media in-charge Srikant Yadav informed that removing personal differences and walking foot-to-foot, more than 20 organisations of Yadav Samaj in Chhattisgarh came under one banner and actively participated in this rally from Durg and Bilai district as well. To make this programme successful, Brigadier Jitendra Bahadur Yadav (Retd.), Pradeep Yadav, Ravindra Singh Yadav, Dy. Gen. Secy., Rajesh Yadav, Asst. Gen. Secy., Principal Secy. Ashok Yadav, V-P Shashikant Yadav, Kamal Singh Yadav, Secy. Sujeet Singh, Ajay Yadav, Ramkumar Yadav, Dr Nagendra Yadav, Treasurer Mukesh Yadu, PR in-charge Dev Yadav, Hemant Yadav, cultural secy Smita Rajneesh Yadav, Sweety Jeewan Thethwar played an important role in making this 'Hunkar rally' a grand success.

Employment Exchange to organize placement camp today

Raipur, Feb 12: A placement camp will be organized by the District Employment and Self-Employment Guidance Center on February 13 to provide employment to the local educated unemployed youth of Chhattisgarh state. Shefali Business International, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance, Raipur will conduct recruitment to fill up 51 posts of Sales Executives, Telecallers, ARDM Sr/ Executive ARDM, etc. Experienced candidates with minimum qualification of 12th, graduate / post graduate with basic computer knowledge will be recruited for these posts. They will be given salary at the rate of Rs

8000 to Rs 30000 per month for these posts. Similarly, Vision India Service Pvt. Ltd. will conduct recruitment on more than 50 posts of student trainees for Suzuki Motors Gujarat's Hansalpur, Becharaji, Ahmedabad plant on a stipend of Rs 11,000 per month (as per terms and conditions). Candidates with qualification of 10th pass with minimum 50 percent marks will be recruited under 02 years training programme. Applicants who are eligible and willing to attend the placement camp can appear on the scheduled date and venue along with their educational, technical qualification, experience certificate and resume.

Amarinder Singh Vama pays courtesy call to CM

- Won a bronze medal in Dubai Pro-International Body Building competition

Raipur, Feb 12: Amarinder Singh Vama, bronze medalist in the Dubai Pro-International Body Building Competition, met Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel today at the Police Line Helipad in the capital city Raipur. The Chief Minister congratulated Amarinder on his accomplishment and wished him success in the future. On this occasion, Urban Administration Minister Dr. Shivkumar Dahariya, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Housing Board Kuldeep Juneja, Councilor Kamran



Ansari, Amarinder's father-Govinder Singh and mother Satwant Kaur were also present. Significantly, the IABB

Pro-International Body Building Competition was organised in Dubai from Oct-24 to 26, 2022, in which 700 participants

from 35 to 40 countries took part. Amarinder Singh has won a bronze medal representing India in the competition.

CM Baghel pays courtesy call on Governor



- Congratulates her on being appointed as the Governor of Manipur

Raipur, Feb 12: Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel met Governor Anusuiya Uikey in Raj Bhavan today and extended hearty con-

gratulations and best wishes to her on being appointed as the Governor of Manipur. Chief Minister Baghel expressed his gratitude to Anusuiya Uikey for her cooperation in the development of Chhattisgarh state as the constitutional head of the state.

Western Rly, Mumbai wins 8-0 against DHA, R'gaon

Ensures berth in the quarter finals
NCR Allahabad defeated BSF, Jalandhar in penalty shoot-out by 5-3



Force (BSF) Jalandhar and NCR Allahabad, the later reached quarter finals defeated BSF by 5-3 in the penalty shootout. On the fifth day of the 79th Mahanat Raja Sarveshwar Das All India Hockey Tournament being played on the astroturf of Digvijay Stadium in Rajnandgaon, it was a disappointing day for

the host team i.e District Hockey Association (DHA) Rajnandgaon, as they were defeated by Western Railway, Mumbai by 8-0. With good attack and coordination by the Western Railway, the DHS R'gaon appeared to be weak. In the first half of the match itself, the players of Western Railway, Mumbai were dominating and in the 6th minute

itself, Irshad Mirza scored the first goal, followed by second in the 9th minute by the captain- Amit Gaur and by the 13th and 30th minute, Rajin Kundela by scoring two goals got a lead of 4-0 to Mumbai's team and which remained intact till the completion of first-half. In the second-half, the attacking team of Western Railway

- Tomorrow's matches**
1. BRC Danapur V/s SAIL Academy Rourkela at 1:00 pm
 2. SAI Excellency Centre Lucknow V/s SAI Hostel, Sundergarh at 2:30 pm
 3. Petroleum Sports, Petroleum Board New Delhi V/s Railway Mumbai at 4:00 pm.

Mumbai continued its attack on 'D' of DHS R'gaon and it was in the 36th minute K Suresh Singh, Shubham Singh in the 43rd minute and Irshad Khan in the 54th minute scored a goal and took their team ahead with lead of 8-0 and secured berth for them in the quarter finals. Meanwhile in the second match, the NCR Allahabad

with good experience and dominance, played an interesting match with BSF Jalandhar.

With both the teams playing equally well in the first, second and third quarter of the match, it remained a tie with no goals. But it was in the penalty corner at the 56th minute to Allahabad team, the ball stuck the leg of the player of BSF Jalandhar team and they got a penalty stroke in the 57th minute. In this Ravi scored a goal for Allahabad team and got a lead of 1-0. But just in the 59th minute, Darshpreet Singh of BSF scored a wonderful goal and took the score to 1-1 each. This situation remained till the end of the game and final decision was to be taken through penalty shootout. In this

Ravi, Swarna Khandekar, Abhay Kumar, Prabhjot Singh of NCR and Naveen K Tirki, Javed Ansari of BSF only can score a goal and due

to which NCR Allahabad won the penalty shoot-out with 4-2 and with initial score of 1-1, they won with 5-3.

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Conference on 'Biomedical Engineering Science and Technology' held

Raipur, Feb 12:

National Institute of Technology (NIT) Raipur's Department of Biomedical Engineering organized the second two-day international conference on "Biomedical Engineering Science and Technology: Roadway from Laboratory to Market" (ICBEST 2023) on 10th and 11th February 2023 in hybrid mode. The aim of the event was to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and professionals from the industry and the academia to share their research trends, findings, and results.

First keynote speaker Professor Guoan Zheng

from the University of Connecticut, USA, delivered his expertise of Coded Ptychography. Second keynote speaker Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Mahto, Associate Professor Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi in his speech, address about importance of three-dimensional microenvironment for cell proliferation, migration and growth over two-dimensional. He further highlighted about electro spun nanofibers which mimics the human extracellular matrix. He illustrated his research on fabrication of silk fibroin-based nanofibers as dressing material for wound

healing applications.

Day two witnessed the valedictory session with Dr. Bikesh K. Singh summarizing the two-day conference. Dr. Narendra Kuber Bodhey, Professor, Department of Radio Diagnosis, AIIMS Raipur was present as Chief Guest for the session. He expatiated about the work being done in the field and congratulated the organizing committee for the successful organization of the conference. The best research papers that were selected in the conference were that of NP Guhan Seshadri, Dr. Lipismita Panigrahi, Anway S. Pimpalkar, Ms. Katinder Kaur, Dr. Pushpa Giri, and Vandana Nilesh Pagar.

The conference was open for all academicians, research scholars, post-doctorate, post-graduates, and under-graduate students functioning in the field of biomedical engineering, and it served as a premier interdisciplinary platform for researchers, practitioners, and educators to present and discuss the most recent innovations, trends, and concerns as well as practical challenges encountered, and solutions adopted in the field. More than 80 participants as in scientists, engineers, and academicians from India and abroad attended the conference, with at least 35 technical presentations scheduled.

Huge crowd throng Maghi Punni Mela



● Long queue of vehicles upto 2 kms on Raipur, Gariyaband and Mahasamund route

Nayapara-Rajim, Feb 12: There was huge crowd at the ongoing Maghi Punni Mela in Rajim on Sunday

and it turned to be out of control as well. Everywhere there was huge rush of devotees and people found it very difficult to reach upto the venue and there was a long queue of about 2 km of vehicles from Rajim to Gariyaband, Mahasamund and Raipur



route and this lasted for hours. The traffic and district police also seemed to be helpless in handling such huge crowd and line of vehicles and by afternoon the rush was at its peak.

Since it happened to be a Sunday, the devotees thronged Rajim Maghi Punni Mela and also to offer obeisance at Shri Rajiv Lochan, Shri Kuleshwar Mahadev mandir. This rush was there till 9:00 in the night.

It is notable here that Rajim Maghi Punni mela started on Feb 5 taking a Holy Dip at the confluence of three rivers in Rajim and by even CM Bhupesh Baghel inaugurated the Maghi Punni Mela. The Mela would conclude on Feb 18 on occasion of Mahashivratri. As such this 'mela' would continue for three days after the Mahashivratri as well, as people come to visit and enjoy in the Fair even after the scheduled period.

Man arrested with two stolen mobile phones

Raipur, Feb 12: Police have arrested a person in connection with incidents of looting mobile phones from people in Urla area. Two stolen mobile phones were recovered from possession of the suspect.

The action of police came after one Rohit Kumar Yadav lodged complaint with Urla Police Station that an unidentified person looted two mobile phones from him when he was going to Savaria Rice Mill from Sarora via Ganesh Dhaba on February 9 morning at around 8 am. Rohit works in Savaria Rice Mill Gogaon and resides in the nearby

quarter. While on way to Savaria Rice Mill he was intercepted by unidentified person who snatched two mobile phones from him by intimidating him of life. On his complaint the police registered offence under Section 392.

On receiving information the team from anti crime cyber police station started search to nab culprit. Meanwhile on receiving tip off from an informer police team arrested one Rajendra Kumar Sahu, resident of Bhanpuri. During interrogation he confessed crime of looting phone phones.

Ceremonial 'hawan' conducted on 200th birth anniversary celebration

Bacheli, Feb 12: DAV Public School, Bacheli conducted a ceremonial Hawan on the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Swami Dayanand Saraswati. On this auspicious day the Principal, Dr. Chetna Sharma along with her team paid a floral tribute by lighting the lamp in front of the portrait of the great and humble personality.

One of the teachers-Vijay Kumar Dewangan had thrown light on the life of Swamiji and he also advised to learn from the biography of Swamiji that how one should lead an ideal life as him. He also added that students should become well aware of this famous per-



sonality and they too may apply his philosophy of serving others without expecting anything in return.

Dewangan beautifully narrated certain incidents happened in the life of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and told that according to the Hindu calendar, the birth anniversary of Swamiji the founder of Arya Samaj is

means light to truth.

The students and the staff paid reverence to Swami Dayanandji with true devotion and there was an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. Principal, Dr. Chetna Sharma appreciated Vijay Kumar Dewangan for his delightful words and asked the students present in the auspicious ceremony to be an enlightened citizen, free from the shackles of ignorance and superstition as advocated by Maharishi Swami Dayanand Saraswati. The pious celebration came to an end by singing a beautiful Bhajan by the music teacher Mrs. Omisha Sahu and the entire DAVians of BACHELI.

celebrated on the tenth day of Krishna Paksh of Falgun month. He also said that this great scholar, philosopher and visionary opposed child marriage, caste distinction, untouchability, idol worship and animal sacrifice. His message to all was 'Back to Vedas'. He published many religious books including 'Satyarth Prakash' which

Field day prog with one day farmer training held

Kondagaon, Feb 12: A one-day field day with farmer training was organized for group frontline demonstration of chickpea cultivation of All India Coordinated Research Project under Tribal subplan at Amadihi under Baderajpur Block of Kondagaon, District on Thursday. This programme was organized under the guidance of Dr. Ritu Saxena, Principal Investigator and prominent Breeder Scientist of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur and in coordination with Agricultural Science Center Kondagaon and District Agriculture and Related Departments. Group front-line demonstration of the All India Coordinated Research



Project under Adivasi subplan on Chickpea crop after training to the farmers of Amadihi of Baderajpur Block and Sodsiwini of Makdi block and planting chickpea crop in the farmers' fields with advanced seeds, seed treatment and advanced technology.

During this the farmers were imparted training by the agricultural scientists and agricultural officers, along with lectures on vari-

ous aspects of chickpea crop in the field day and question-and-answer session with the farmers. In this programme, 180 farmers from Amadihi and Sodsiwani were present, to whom 50 sprayer machines and 100 'hansia' were distributed for agricultural work. All the farmers enthusiastically participated in the program and urged the visitors to organize such a program again.

Cash, Jewellery worth 6.5 lakh stolen

● From a contractor's house

Raipur, Feb 12: Unidentified thieves decamped with jewellery worth lakhs of rupees from house of a contractor in Tatibandh area of Raipur. They committed theft of cash with 10 tola gold worth Rs 6.5 lakh. Amanaka Police have started investigation after registering offence against unidentified thieves. The incident took place at house of a contractor named Sourabh Mishra in Tatibandh, falling under jurisdiction of Amanaka Police Station. His father-in-law Dilip Tiwari who works as clerk in Zila Sahkari Bank lodged complaint. Dilip Tiwari said that Sourabh Mishra along with his mother went to Prayagraj to attend a marriage function. According to complainant 10 tola gold

ornaments along with cash of Rs 70000 were stolen from the house. Among the stolen items are gold jewellery, tops (4 pairs), bracelet (four pieces), mang tika (one piece), ring (two pieces), gold chain (one piece), total weight about 10 tola, silver anklet (two pairs) and other items were stolen. This amount may increase further after the arrival of the contractor. Sourabh's had gone to her maternal home in Samta Colony with her daughter after locking the house. On the morning of February 11, the lady who worked in the house called and told that the lock of the house was broken. Sourabh's wife then came to house in Tatibandh where she saw the lock outside the house broken. After going inside the house she found that goods of all the three rooms were littered. The cash and jewellery were missing.

ACF distributes education items to deaf and dumb children



Raipur, Feb 12: Aranyam Charitable Foundation (ACF), a social organisation led by Sweta Jaiswal distributed education materials and food items among

the inmates of Kopalwani Ashram here along with giving them the message of education. Sweta also spent quality time with the inmates.

Free health check-up camp organized



● At Lara under AYUSH

Lara, Feb 12: Under celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Janbhagidari (Public Participation) NTPC Lara organized a free health checkup camp on alternate medicines, treatment by Homeopathy medicine as per the instructions received by Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga

and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy). Experienced homeopathy doctors from Raigarh conducted the medical camp. Large number of employees, associates and villagers took the benefit of this health camp.

Earlier in the morning a small ceremonial programme was organized by Hospital, where Rajeev Ranjan, GM (FM) inaugu-

rated the health camp by cutting the ribbon and elaborated the importance of alternate medicines for healthy life.

Among others S K Roy, GM (Operation), Ravi Shankar, GM (Project), Hriday Mandal, AGM (TAD & RSW), Saroj Kumar Pujari, CMO, Kanhaiya Das, AGM (HR), doctors and paramedical staffs were present on this occasion.

Sathya Sai Sanjeevani saves an abandoned grandson

Raipur, Feb 12: The detected grandfather never imagined that he would return as an elated grandfather. This is the unbelievable story of elderly Bajrang from Ballia Uttar Pradesh, returning with his miraculously saved grandson Sher Kumar.

Sher Kumar was the only child of Naina and Krishnanand. As he showed symptoms of breathlessness on examination by the local village Doctor he was referred to the District Hospital. Later on the advice of a Pediatrician in Mau an Echo test in BHU, Varanasi he was strongly advised to go straight to Shri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital (SSSSH) in Nava Raipur before Sher's condition deteriorates.

He found his way to Nava Raipur Sanjeevani Centre in April 2019. As he was severely underweight



only 1.5 kg and 8 months old, he was asked to return after he reaches the desired weight. They returned home. Bajrang's eldest son and the child's father Krishnanand, a labourer was mentally-retarded. Suddenly he disappeared. A report of missing person was registered at Zila Kotwali Police Station. He never re-

turned. His mother Naina after a year went to her parents home but never returned thereafter. Sher was left abandoned with his grandfather Bajrang.

Bajrang tried his best to find his missing son, but in vain. He was shattered. Then the long spell of the Corona pandemic cast its gloom. It was then to his surprise he started receiving calls enquiring about Sher. He could not believe his good luck when the world came to a standstill Sai Sanjeevani remembered to call. It was like a Call from Heaven. He was counselled and encouraged to come for the treatment of Sher Kumar. The surgical team led by Chief Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Ragini Pandey and Chief Anesthetist Dr. Bal Swarup Sahu operated him for TOF Repair, TAP, PDA Ligation and Monocusp, a very complex cardiac condition. With

God's Grace; there was no post op complication and was discharged on the 11th day. Bajrang had not seen a Hospital in his life where he was called and provided all services Totally Free. He had spent around Rs.70, 000/- before coming to this Hospital. At Varanasi, he was told that Sher's complicated surgery would cost over Rs.5.5 lakhs. For an aged person with 0.4 acre of land, a large family and worst kind of family tragedy; it was impossible for him to arrange such a vast sum in his lifetime. Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Raipur was a blessing in disguise for poorest and distressed persons like us. Being illiterate, desperate, disturbed and financially very weak; the Doctors, nurses and staff in Sai Sanjeevani became his loving family. Dr. Ragini was like a mother to the child from the beginning.

'Effects of Covid 19 Pandemic on Mental health of Children and families'

Dr. Meenal Pathak is a board-certified child & adolescent and an adult psychiatrist who specializes in treating mental health disorders in the United States. She graduated from Chhattisgarh Institute of medical sciences - Bilaspur in 2009, and moved to USA for further studies in psychiatry & specializes in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. In her recent articles she brings to light the decline in mental health children have during the Pandemic & Post Pandemic era. Her primary research interests are global mental health, along with telehealth measures that were widely used to provide healthcare. She is an assistant professor and researcher in USA, and has authored numerous articles in various journals, and presented her work at national and international conferences and has featured in expert talks at schools and institutions.

During the pandemic she worked on providing continuous services at the child and adolescent partial hospitalization program through telehealth, which was imperative in supporting mental health care for children, adoles-



cents and families struggling during the pandemic. These telehealth services provided care to patients in their home environment which ensured their safety while taking care of their mental health needs. She also published an article in the journal of Primary care companion for CNS disorders, titled, "Development of a child and adolescent tele-partial hospitalization program (tele-PHP) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic", discussing the operational challenges related to the development of the program.

Her article was also cited in scientific brief report by WHO about interventions to maintain essential

services for children and adolescents during disruptive events.

Dr. Pathak stresses attention be paid to increase in stress levels for children and families during and after pandemic, in response to social isolation, and change in social norms. Schools going completely online for their curriculum for 2 yrs have impacted social & mental health significantly for children. Education, healthcare, community, social engagements also took online forum to continue providing services, which demanded a lot of changes on various platforms including personal adjustments for people.

In countries where mental health awareness and resources are limited, it is difficult to acknowledge the high stress levels and determine the basic support required for children and families. Social isolation has made things worse over time; which has led to development of multiple social media wellness apps that people have started utilizing gradually. It also created awareness for mental and physical wellness overall with a lot of teenage children and young adults using them for men-

tal health awareness. Worsening of mental health has brought a significant shift in the medical community globally, with an increase in medical students' interest to specialize in psychiatry and mental health as compared to the previous trends.

It is imperative to understand, the academic, societal, and mental burden of isolation on children going through developmental milestones due to disruptive events. Schools should consider providing more awareness towards mental health and academic resources to help children and even teachers adjust to the continuously changing curriculums. At last, parents and family members need to be more supportive towards a child's mental health in these uncertain times, they should provide support to children at home by helping them take necessary breaks from the electronics, social media, screen time and incorporate

'experiences' that include quality time with family members, and peers which will help improve overall mental health for the community as a whole.

SECR hosts conference of employees and welfare inspectors

Bilaspur, Feb 12:

In continuation of the initiative started from last year, a conference of all the employees and welfare inspectors of South East Central Railway was organized today on February 11, 2023 at the headquarters.

In the conference, a detailed discussion was held by Principal Chief Personnel Officer and Chief Personnel Officer (CPO) on the role of employees and welfare inspectors in redressing the problems of railway employees and their dependent families and the problems and solutions in their field of work. Mainly, in this conference, guidance was provided on issues related to redressal of grievances of employees/retire-



ment employees, roster, compassionate appointment, family pension, pension re-authorization, and hope card, and detailed discussions were held on the rules. Apart from this, it was also decided to upload the result released by Railway Recruitment Cell on the official web portal

of Railways. In this conference, Rajendra Kumar Aggarwal / Principal Chief Personnel Officer, SD Patidar / Chief Personnel Officer (HR), Ashok Kumar Sharma / Deputy Chief Personnel Officer (HR), Sanjay Oswal / Deputy Chief Personnel Officer

(Construction), Pradeep Mishra / Senior Divisional Personnel Officer / Bilaspur, Uday Bharti / Senior Divisional Personnel Officer / Raipur Division, PT Naik / Senior Divisional Personnel Officer / Nagpur Division, Sneha Sheesh Ghosh / Asst. Personnel Officer / Bilaspur Division, RS Bundela / Assistant Personnel Officer / Railway Recruitment Cell, Bilaspur, Shri Bhaskar Guha / Assistant Workshop Personnel Officer / Varisha / Raipur, Amresh Shukla / Assistant Workshop Personnel Officer / Motibagh / Nagpur and all zones. All the employees and welfare inspectors participated enthusiastically.

Div. Conf of CWJU held in Mungeli

Bilaspur, Feb 12:

Under the aegis of Chhattisgarh Working Journalist Association (CWJU) Mungeli district, on February 8, the divisional conference of Chhattisgarh Working Journalist Association concluded at Pandit Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Navagarh Road, Mungeli.

The chief guest of the program was Guru Rudra Kumar, Minister of Public Health Engineering, Khadi Village Industries and in-charge, the state president of the union, Arvind Awasthi, presided over. State General Secretary of Chhattisgarh Working Journalists Association Vishwa Deepak Rai and veteran leaders of



Congress and BJP were also present as special guests.

A large number of members including office bearers from Bilaspur, Surguja, Korba, Janjgir-Champa,

Manendragarh, Chirmiri, Kawardha, Sarangarh, Bilaigarh, Raipur, Pendra and other districts of the state were present in the divisional conference program organized on

this occasion. Mungeli district unit Chhattisgarh Shramjeevi Patrakar Sangh has made a big contribution to make the above program successful. Rajkumar Yadav, President of the Sangh's organizer unit Mungeli, General Secretary Ishwar Sahu have expressed gratitude to the office bearers and members of the Sangh for making the conference a success.

Mainly Bilaspur District President Santosh Singh Thakur, Mo. Mustaq, Krishnapal Dev Khatkar, Mukesh Shrivastava, Suresh Dubey, Jagannath Prasad Netam, Santosh Mishra, Uday Singh Thakur, Durga Prajapati, Ajit Rathore, Mo. Khurshid, Dinesh Sarathi, Sunil Singh Thakur and other journalists were present.

150 COUPLES TIE NUPITAL KNOT UNDER MKY



Rajim: Under the 'Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana' (MKY), 150 couples tied nuptial knot under the mass marriage held at Shri Rajiv Lochan Mandir premises on Saturday. In this 36 girls who came for check-up were found with Anemia and were given medicines and necessary advice by the doctors.

MLA Markam inaugurated the new high school building

Kondagaon, Feb 12: Keeping in mind the convenience of children and parents, the high school building in Sankul Kendra Bakhra, Vikashkhanda Kondagaon, was inaugurated by Regional MLA Mohan Markam on Thursday. Addressing the villagers on this occasion, MLA said that education, health and roads have always been his top priorities because he himself has grown up in rural areas and is



well aware of the small problems of village people. Child's right is the main basis of child's life and future creation and punishment is an important part of any person's life, as it determines the

direction of his life and exhibits the individual's personality. Education is an important part of any person's life which determines the direction of his life and shows the individual's personali-

ty. Today many government and non-government schemes are run by the government to make education within reach of the common men. It is being done so that no child of any section of the society remains deprived of education. Today schools in the form of education temples have been opened in every village. During this, a cultural programme, group dance was presented by the children of Primary School

Hardipara, Primary School Nayapara Kukadgarkapal and High School Bakhra and the participating children were also awarded by the chief guest. On this occasion, the teachers of the Sankul, the students of the school village and their parents, the members of the school management committee, the members of the women self help group and the villagers were present in large numbers.

Family counseling seminar organized at NEI Auditorium

**Bilaspur, Feb 12:**

Under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager Praveen Pandey, a family counseling seminar was organized in the presence of senior railway officials along with the running staff family on February 08, 2023 at NEI Auditorium with the aim of improving the working style of the running staff and maintaining family and social balance. On this occasion Sr Divisional Personnel Officer Pradeep Mishra, Sr Divisional Safety Officer, Anurag Kumar Singh, Sr Divisional Engineer Rajdhari Yadav, Sr Divisional Electrical Engineer V Ravi,

ACMS Dr. Sumit Prakash and Nutritionist were present. About 76 employees of the running staff and their family members participated in the seminar. In this seminar the working style, food style, health and other problems of the running staff were discussed. The running staff and their family members informed about various problems and also asked questions related to health and food habits to the attending doctor. The questions related to their food style were resolved by the health and nutritionist. Also they were given proper counseling about better health and stress

■ Advice was given to work with vigilance and alertness, taking special care of health

free lifestyle. Apart from this, by giving important advice and consultation related to safety, the running staff will be able to perform their work in a better way. It was emphasized that only a strong family can lay the foundation of a strong railway and country, so a message to this effect was sent to the loco pilot and running staff. Adopt family balance and healthy lifestyle which is the basis of efficient performance in the field. A mood full of peace and harmony gives rise to a strong will in difficult operations and dutifulness. At the same time, he was assured that by organizing continuous seminars problems will be solved and proper counseling will be given. Shri Radha Krishna templetrain.

Magnificent performance by the artists of Dudhmongra



Rajim, Feb 12: Many performances marked the fourth day of Rajim Maghi Punni Mela, in which majorly Chhattisgarhi Pandwani singer Padmashree Usha Barle presented the dialogues between Kunti and Gandhari in Kapalika style on the main stage on the fourth day to spread Chhattisgarhi culture.

Her expressions and style of presentation was welcomed by all and in the second phase of the program, in the presentation of Tikendra Verma, after Ganpati La Manao, the song Jai Maa Kali Jai Chhattisgarh Mahtari was presented on the stage to celebrate Maa Jagat Janani. This was followed by the performance of Jaadu Dare Alberi Naar which enthralled the audience. The last presentation of Lok Kala Manch was Chherchera, a famous festival of Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh's famous Doodh Mongra artistes gave their presentation.

After this respectively Jai-Jai O Durga Mata, Jai Chhattisgarh Mahtari... followed by Thaiya-thaiya naache mor angana... Jas song made the atmosphere devotional. Along with this, presented the song Mahua ke Lata, Kolar Bhaji... sung by the Baiga caste. After this, the most famous song of Doodh Mongra, which was sung in 1976, gave a brilliant rendition of the song 'Kaniha ma kardhan au paav ma santi'. Dudh Mongra Lokmanch presented various cultural traditions of Chhattisgarh through dance and songs on the stage in such a way that even the audience felt that this huge stage of Rajim Maghi Punni Mela actually reflects Chhattisgarhi culture. At the end of the program, presentation of Mahtari, a musical drama Mati was given, which also the audience enjoyed a lot. The artists were honored by the local representatives by giving mementos.

Human life is to do good works: Swamy Nischalanand Saraswati

Inaugurates free of cost mobile health path lab**Kawardha, Feb 12:**

Seer of Puri Shankaracharya Swamy Nischalanand Saraswati addressed a huge gathering at Gram Ranvirpur and during this thousand of devotees, religious followers were present.

It started with 'Sunderkand' at School Ground, Bazar Chowk in Ranvirpur and during this he also inaugurated free of cost health path lab by the founder of Bhawana Samaj Sewi Sansthan and organiser Bhawana Bohara and hailed this particular initiative for welfare of general public.

This programme was organised by convener 'Aditya vahini-Anandvahini', District Kabirdham and all religious followers and jointly by all villagers and people of the region. Organiser of the pro-

gramme, Bhawana Bohara in her welcome address said that the place where the 'Sant-Samagam' takes place, it gets automatically sacred and the place where the Shankaracharya has put his feet is an honour for all the followers of 'Sanatan dharm'.

She expressed gratitude towards the Gurudev for spreading the rich history of Sanathan Dharm and Indian culture in the country and abroad and spreading the message of 'Akhand Bharat' to the masses. The way he has defined the 'Sanathan Dharm' and Hindu Dharm, provides inspiration to all for lifetime and we all should get associated with this 'Rastrotkarsh Abhiyan' and contribute in developing of 'Hindu Rashtira' with promotion of 'Sanatan Dharm'. On this

occasion Mahant Shri Rajiv Lochan Dasji Maharaj and Sant Shri Balak Dasji Maharaj also addressed the gathering.

Shankaracharya Swamy Nischalanandji Saraswati giving message on spiritualism and nationalism cited the excerpts from 'Shrimad Bhagwat Gita' and motivated people to follow in the same direction. He said that the human life is not there to just live it casually, but to do some good work and try to know the self through 'bhakti' and self-introspection. One who is born is sure to die, but it is by attaining the 'Moksha' that one can free himself from this 'chakra'. For this a human being should not only identify his with the physical body, but the inner self. This nature is to there to think about the Supreme and till the entire nature does not get inside one's mind, till then welfare of beings is not possible.

Challenging those not accepting the existence of the God, he said that if there would not have been any water, then no one would have felt thirsty and there would not have been any food, if one does not feel hunger.

In the same way if there is no death, then 'Sachchidanand' would not have been present and which is above 'Nashwarta'. About religious conversion he said that the backward persons of Hindu religion are being forced into religious conversion by misguiding them and even after entering new fold, they are still suffering and questioned as to who they would benefit from this conversion.

Annapurna donates Rs 21000 for Shri Radha-Krishna Temple



Baikunthpur, Feb 12: The Leader of Opposition in Nagar Palika Parishad (NPP) Baikunthpur Annapurna Prabhakar Singh has donated an amount of Rs 21000 for Shri Radha Krishna temple. It is notable here that temple of Shri Radha Krishna is under construction in Prema Bagh, ward No. 16 for last many years and for its beautification work this amount of Rs 21000 has been donated, so that its construction work can gain momentum and be completed soon.

Annapurna Prabhakar Singh has said that she will always continue to work for the welfare and development works in the city and appealed the denizens of city to extend all possible assistance for Shri Krishna Radha Temple for its construc-



tion work. Annapurna Prabhakar Singh informed that at present she is getting while-wash and cleaning done in Lord Shri Jagannath temple; Maa Adhishakti Durga Temple and in Lord Shri Ram temple, as the festival of 'sanatan dharm' 'Mahashivratri' and 'Chaitra Navratri' is approaching fast.

The Leader of Opposition NPP said that she would continue to extend all possible support for people from all sections of the society and for all religions and would fulfill the responsibilities and obligations on her shoulders with due dedication and commitment and try to meet upto their expectations.

It is notable here that Annapurna Prabhakar Singh is the Leader of Opposition in NPP

Baikunthpur and is also a house-wife and she has been fulfilling her works with due sincerity and dedication.

Annapurna said that she instead of practicing the politics of opposition and protest, instead favours the need to take up development for the common men and to apprise them about their fundamental rights and ensure that they get due benefit of the government's schemes and bring happiness in their lives.

She appealed all to work in unison and in cooperation with each other and try to help the person in need and it is only when all will work unitedly that demands and needs of the under-privileged and needy people can be fulfilled and make this city a more wonderful place to live.

NOTICE BY WAY OF SUBSTITUTED SERVICE UNDER RULE 38 OF NCLT RULES, 2016
READ WITH ORDER V RULE 20 OF CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908
IN THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL,
ALLAHABAD BENCH, UTTAR PRADESH
SANDEEP GOEL, LIQUIDATOR FOR CHAUDHARY INGOTS PVT. LTD.
VS
MR. NARENDRA SINGH PANWAR AND OTHERS.
IA No. 168/2022 IN CP (IB) No. 356/ALD/2019

To
SHIVAN MITTAL (RESPONDENT NO.3)
MEMBER OF SUSPENDED BOARD OF DIRECTOR
OF TRIMURTI CONCAST PVT. LTD., 166/1, PATEL NAGAR, NEW MANDI,
MUZAFFARNAGAR, UP 251001. EMAIL: MITTAL.SHIVAN07@GMAIL.COM

MEGHA JALAN (RESPONDENT NO. 4)
DIRECTOR OF SHREE AERAN MARKETING PRIVATE LIMITED
RESIDENCE AT: 912 LKHU NAGAR, TRI NAGAR, NEW DELHI - 110035
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ATUL KUMAR JALLAN (RESPONDENT NO. 5)
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UB VENTURES PRIVATE LIMITED (RESPONDENT NO. 6)
CIN:U27310CT2007PTC020346
OFFICE AT: PLOT NO. 94 TO 115 INDUSTRIAL AREA NAYANPUR, SURAJPUR
CHHATTISGARH - 497229, INDIA. EMAIL: UB_VENTURES@YAHOO.IN

WHEREAS, Mr. Sandeep Goel, Liquidator for Chaudhary Ingots Pvt. Limited has filed I.A. No. 168 of 2022 under Section 66 of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016 and whereas, the Hon'ble NCLT, Allahabad Bench, Uttar Pradesh issued notice on you the above-named. That notice dated 18.01.2023 the Hon'ble NCLT has permitted the undersigned to serve you the Addressee through substituted service.

TAKE NOTICE that the above-captioned matter will now be listed on 03.03.2023 before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Allahabad Bench, Uttar Pradesh. You may either appear in person or through your Authorized Representative.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

CMA Sandeep Goel
Date: 13.02.2023 Liquidator for M/s Chaudhary Ingots Private Limited
Place: New Delhi Regn. No.: IBB/IPA-003/IP-N00073/2017-18/10583

BRIEF



People outside the Badrinath temple after fresh snowfall, in Chamoli district, Sunday.

Explosion

Noida: Two children, including a 12-day-old girl, died and four other members of their family suffered severe injuries in a fire that erupted after a cooking gas cylinder exploded at their home here early on Sunday, officials said. Chief Fire Officer, Pradeep Kumar Choubey, said his department received information at 2.52 am about the fire in a 'pucca' house in the JJ cluster in Sector 8.

Mishap

Rajgarh: Two persons were killed and three others injured when a speeding truck hit their sports utility vehicle (SUV) from behind in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district, police said on Sunday. The accident took place on Saturday evening near Narsinggarh on National Highway no.52, an official said.

Arrested

Kaushambi: Two criminals wanted in cases of loot, dacoity and other crimes in several districts of UP were nabbed after an encounter with the police in Manjhanpur area here, police said on Sunday.

Gunfight

Deoghar: Two police personnel were killed in a gunfight with unidentified persons in Jharkhand's Deoghar district, police said on Sunday. The incident took place around 12.30 am on Shyamganj Road in Deoghar town, around 250 km from Ranchi, when unidentified persons attacked the house of a local fish trader, who had sought security from the administration after another attack on him a few days back, Superintendent of Police Subhash Chandra Jat said.

Suicide

Muzaffarnagar: A man allegedly shot himself dead after an argument with his mother here, police said on Sunday. According to the police, Ali Zaidi (23) ended his life on Saturday in Garhi village. Circle Officer of Police (CO), Shakeel Ahmed, told reporters here that the body has been sent for post-mortem. A country-made pistol used in the incident has also been recovered.

Visit

Nagpur: Former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh has visited his hometown Nagpur for the first time in 15 months after being released from jail and alleged that he was implicated in false cases.

CANVASSING CASTE

Artist Vikrant Bhise paints Ambedkar

Continues Dalit struggles at India Art Fair

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Taking a walk along the hundreds of modern and contemporary art pieces at the India Art Fair, the visitor's eyes were caught by a display of splashes of blue that can only be associated with Dr BR Ambedkar and his work for Dalits, labourers and women.

Vikrant Bhise, a conceptual artist based in Mumbai, brought a number of works based on Ambedkar and his association with India's labour laws, atrocities on SC/ST communities, and the suicides of PhD scholar Rohith Vemula in 2016 and resident doctor Payal Tadavi in 2019.

"For the last 14 years, I have been working with these themes that are part of the Constitution. I depict the labour acts, women acts, Dalit literature and movements that have happened and are happening," the painter told PTI. The booth by Anant Art Gallery housed a series of works by Bhise, predominantly



Ambedkarite in nature. One of his larger pieces, "Dr Ambedkar and Labour", shows a labourer cleaning a bust of Babasaheb and inadvertently covering his eyes as if trying to shield the Dalit leader from the atrocities and injustice on SC/ST communities. Other artworks included by the University of Hyderabad for his alleged role in an assault on an ABVP student leader. Tadavi, a second year resident doctor at BYL Nair Hospital in Mumbai, allegedly committed suicide after facing harassment by three of her seniors.

the measure to subdue a crowd protesting the desecration of a statue of Ambedkar. The 38-year-old painter pointed towards two artworks, one showcasing a newspaper clipping after Tadavi's suicide and the other Vemula's empty hostel room. Vemula ended his life after being suspended by the University of Hyderabad for his alleged role in an assault on an ABVP student leader. Tadavi, a second year resident doctor at BYL Nair Hospital in Mumbai, allegedly committed suicide after facing harassment by three of her seniors.

CHILD MARRIAGE

'Arrests not only solution, need to address causes'

Guwahati, Feb 12 (PTI):

The recent arrests of over 3,000 people allegedly involved in child marriages in Assam has created a divide in the civil society, with a section asserting that mere law enforcement cannot be the solution while some arguing that at least the law is being discussed and may prove to be a deterrent.

More than 3,000 people allegedly associated with child marriages have been apprehended so far across Assam, and lodged in temporary jails, sparking protests by women who decried the arrest of sole breadwinners of their families.

Human rights lawyer Debasmita Ghosh said that once a marriage is consummated, the law considers it to be valid and children born out of such unions enjoy all legal rights.

"The law states that a child marriage is voidable only if a petition is filed before a district court by the person who was a child at the time of the marriage and if the petitioner is a minor, it can be filed through his or her guardian," she told PTI.

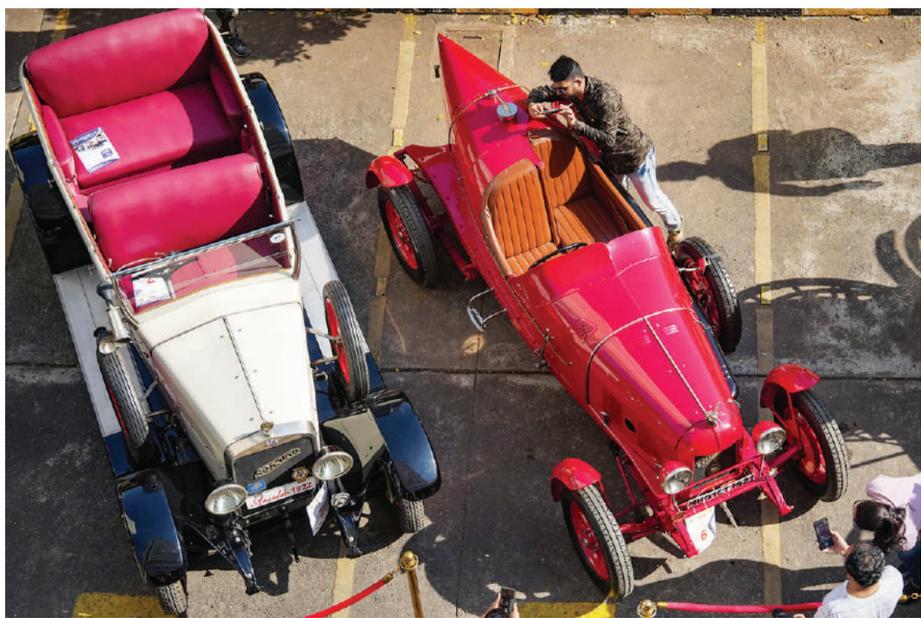
If the petition is being filed by the person who was married as a child, it must be done so within two years of the person

attaining adulthood, Ghosh said. "In most of the arrests made, the couples may be adults now and if they have not filed petitions for annulling their marriages, the state has no business to interfere in their personal lives," Ghosh added.

Besides, the law was enacted in 2006 and the name itself suggests marriages should be prohibited but why was it not done so by agencies responsible for it? she questioned.

Eminent academician Manorama Sarma said child marriages must end but this is a social evil, not a law and order problem. "Taking care of

VINTAGE CAR RALLY



People click pictures of vintage cars during the 40th Annual Vintage Car Fiesta, in Mumbai, Sunday.

Sangam city to witness mass marriage event for 'divyangs'

On Feb 18

Prayagraj (UP), Feb 12 (PTI): Prayagraj will witness a unique mass marriage event on February 18 in which several people with disability will tie the knots and embark on a new life with the help of the city residents. The event, in its

15th year, is unique in that instead of the groom, the wedding procession will be brought by the bride's side.

Srinarayan Yadav, convener of the event, told PTI that the event is being organised by Swaraj Divyangyan Seva Parivar this year, and will be held

in the premises of Rajshri Tandon Seva Kendra, Bank Road.

Twelve divyang (people with disability) couples will tie the knot during the event. In all, about 350 Divyangs have got married in the last 15 years under the programme which is held with the sup-

port of the general public, Yadav said. There is a tradition of gifting household articles to the newlyweds by the people from the city and outside. People who run businesses come forward and donate their articles to help the couples start a new life, Yadav said.

99.3 percentile NEET scorer in legal trouble

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Over nativity claim

A 21-year-old medical student of the prestigious JIPMER in Puducherry has found himself embroiled in a legal battle over his claim of nativity — an issue that has triggered a wider debate and calls for proper observance of admission norms. Najih Khalid scored 99.30 percentile in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) last year and bagged admission in the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) under the residency quota, but his admission was challenged soon after. Another medical student, 18-year-old

Saminathan S, alleged that Khalid had claimed nativity in Puducherry as well as Kerala and moved the Madras High Court in November last year seeking cancellation of his admission.

Khalid has denied any wrongdoing on his part.

According to admission norms, a student cannot claim nativity in more than one state in an academic year while applying for admission to medical colleges.

But many students take advantage of varying nativity norms in different states and apply for admission in multiple states to "grab the best opportuni-

ty", claimed an organisation fighting for the cause of students of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

"This nativity duplicity is quite frequent in many other states, particularly in bordering areas... Students should be aware that it can lead to a disaster in their career," said M Narayanasamy, the president of the Puducherry UT All CENTAC Students Parents Association.

Petitioner Saminathan, who secured a seat in the Karaikal campus of JIPMER, which is considered secondary to the Puducherry centre, demanded that Khalid's admission be cancelled because he misled the authorities by filing a false affidavit.

MASS MARRIAGE



Brides and grooms tie the knot during a mass marriage ceremony, at Gadauli Dham in Mirzapur, Sunday.

AIADMK, allies intensify poll campaign in Erode East

Make DMK raise pitch

Chennai, Feb 12 (PTI):

The Congress and DMK may have had a head start in launching the poll campaign in Erode East Assembly constituency, but the AIADMK and its ally the BJP, intensified their campaign making electioneering in the constituency balanced.

The campaign will reach a high decibel level next week when BJP State chief K Annamalai is expected to take up a blitzkrieg campaign against the ruling DMK, which is supporting the

Congress (former Union Minister E V K S Elangovan) in the February 27 by-poll.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin is also set to hit the campaign trail and raise the pitch as the opposition has been targeting the alleged unfulfilled poll promises of the DMK government.

AIADMK interim general secretary K Palaniswami has been training his guns on the State government, and local civic issues appear to virtually dwarf his campaign.

'NPP, UDP, TMC puppets of BJP in Meghalaya'

Shillong, Feb 12 (PTI):

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh called the Conrad K Sangma-led NPP, the UDP and the TMC "puppets" of the BJP in poll-bound Meghalaya.

Claiming that the Meghalaya polls will be a "watershed election" for the Congress, Ramesh said 47 of its 60 candidates are "below the age of 45 and this has never happened before in any state".

Such a decision helped bring youth to the fore, he said.

The Congress leader, who was here on Saturday to release the party's manifesto for the February 27 assembly elections, said Meghalaya means abode of clouds, but "the clouds



Jairam Ramesh

are not rain-bearing ones but of corruption, unemployment and power cuts".

"The Congress is fighting against the cloud of corruption and unemployment, and the destruction of Meghalaya's identity and the cloud of the unholy alliance BJP, NPP,

UDP, TMC that are all claiming they are fighting the election independently "the former union minister said.

The Congress leader also asserted that "there are puppets of the BJP in different states".

"Here (in Meghalaya) there is one puppet called the NPP, there is another puppet called the UDP and now there is a new one, a third puppet that has come into the Meghalaya politics, TMC or JMP (Judas Mukul Party)," he said.

Former chief minister Mukul Sangma, ex-speaker Charles Pyngrupe and 10 other Congress legislators had in 2021 switched their allegiance to the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC.

Kerala fights drug menace among school children

Thiruvananthapuram, Feb 12 (PTI):

Few months ago, a shocking video surfaced on social media in which a young woman was seen screaming loudly under the influence of drugs after being caught by police from a lodge in a central Kerala town during a raid. The investigation into the incident later revealed that the woman, once a bright student, was lured into the trap of drugs by the deadly mafia and was being used as a carrier to run their lucrative business. It was one of such several incidents that shook the collective consciousness of Kerala society, prompting the government to crack down on those engaged in the dirty business in the southern state.

'TMC 'playing game' to help BJP in Tripura'

Agartala, Feb 12 (PTI):

The Trinamool Congress is "playing a game" to support the BJP in Tripura but will not be able to hamper the Congress-Left alliance's chances in the assembly polls, the state's AICC in-charge Ajoy Kumar said on Sunday. A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a dig at the Left-Congress alliance, Kumar asserted that the tie-up was on a strong footing in the state as there was "political commonness" between the Congress and the CPI(M) in Tripura.

"You see the crowds (for Left-Congress alliance), see on the ground. The leaders may have small issues but the cadre people



Ajoy Kumar

are all together. I have been travelling all over Tripura, it is quite heartening to see that," he told PTI in a telephonic interview from Agartala.

Asked about the Tipra Motha party gaining ground in the tribal belt and if that will affect the Left-Congress, Kumar pointed to the head of

CPI(M) in Tripura, Jitendra Chowdhury, being a tribal leader.

"He (Chowdhury) is actually a leader who speaks their (tribals') language. He is the son of the soil. So I think the tribals are also understanding that Jitendra Chowdhury represents the actual tribal aspirations," Kumar asserted. The tribals are shifting towards Chowdhury and the Congress leadership, he claimed. In the 60-member Tripura assembly, 20 seats are reserved for tribal areas. On the TMC making a fray in Tripura and if it will damage the Left-Congress' chances, Kumar said, "I don't think so (it will hamper Left-Congress chances)."

Earthquake diplomacy: Greek foreign minister visits Turkey

Athens, Feb 12 (AP):

Greek foreign minister Nikos Dendias visited the earthquake-stricken areas of Turkey on Sunday, accompanied by his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu.

The visit was part of a new round of so-called "earthquake diplomacy" between the two uneasy allies, whose relations have often been frosty, if not downright hostile.

Something similar happened in 1999, three years after the two countries almost went to war over two uninhabited islets in the Aegean Sea.

In August 1999, a 7.6 magnitude tremor had struck Turkey, resulting in about 18,000 dead; the following month, a 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck the Greek capital, Athens, killing 143 people.

In both cases, the two countries sent rescuers to assist in each other's efforts. The warming of bilateral relations had been widely covered in the international media.

Cavusoglu recalled a letter that he, as a private cit-



izen, had sent to TIME magazine at the time.

"Back then, I said that we should not wait for another earthquake to improve our relations. I repeat this now, as Turkiye's foreign minister: We must make efforts to improve our relations," Cavusoglu said.

"I want to totally sign on to what Mevlut said: that we should not wait for natural disasters to improve our relations," Dendias said later.

The two countries are at odds over research for natural resources in the Aegean and the Eastern Mediterranean.

Turkiye has also ac-

used Greece of militarising some Aegean islands, in violation of international treaties, a charge Greece has strongly denied. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has often threatened Greece that Turkish troops will come "suddenly one night," and has mentioned that Turkey's new Tayfun missiles can reach Athens.

Such rhetoric has, at least for the moment, been put aside. Erdogan has spoken on the phone with Greece's President Katerina Sakellariopoulou and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, with whom he had declared he would not speak ever

again. The two Greek officials called Erdogan to express their condolences for the earthquake's victims and assure him of Greek support.

Publicly, and on social media, Greek people have expressed their support for Turkey, except for some on the far nationalist fringe. Greek unions have taken the lead in collecting aid for the displaced. At all sports events held on Saturday, a minute of silence was observed for the victims. Cavusoglu and Dendias visited the Operations Centre in Antakya, where they were briefed on the latest developments concerning the evacuation and rescue effort, as well as on the humanitarian needs that have arisen. They also saw the extent of the devastation from the air, in a helicopter trip. Dendias and Cavusoglu also visited the camp where Greek and other international units, units are based. Rescuers from EU countries have pulled a total of 205 survivors from the ruins, Dendias said in a joint appearance with Cavusoglu.

CYCLONE GABRIELLE



Planes wait on the tarmac at Auckland Airport after flights were cancelled and passengers stranded as a cyclone Gabrielle hit the northern parts of New Zealand, Sunday, Feb. 12.

Iranian President Raisi to visit China to shore up ties

Beijing, Feb 12 (AP):

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will visit China for a three-day trip starting Tuesday at the invitation of his counterpart, Xi Jinping. China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying made the announcement on Sunday. She did not elaborate on Raisi's itinerary. The two leaders met last September in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, when Xi underscored China's support for Iran. In December, Raisi pledged to remain committed to deepening the strategic partnership during a meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Hu Chunhua in Tehran. China is a major buyer of Iranian oil and an important source of investment in the Mideast country. In 2021, Iran and China signed a 25-year strategic cooperation



agreement that covered major economic activities from oil and mining to industry, transportation and agriculture. Both countries have had tense relations with the United States and have sought to project themselves as a counterweight to American power alongside Russia.

Washington has accused Iran of selling hundreds of attack drones to Russia for its war in Ukraine and has sanctioned executives of an Iranian drone manufacturer. At that same time, ties between Moscow and Beijing have grown stronger.

US to welcome any effort by India to end hostilities in Ukraine: White House

Washington, Feb 12 (PTI):

The US will welcome any attempt that could lead to ending the raging Russia-Ukraine conflict, including any effort that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is willing to undertake, the White House said.

The remarks by National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby came on Friday, days after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval held talks with Russian leaders, including President Vladimir Putin.

When asked if there is still time for Prime Minister Modi to convince Russian President Putin to stop the war,

Kirby said: "I think there's still time for Putin to stop the war. I think there's still time for it."

"PM Modi can convince; I will let PM Modi speak to (or make) whatever efforts he's willing to undertake. The US would welcome any effort that could lead to an end of hostilities in Ukraine that are in keeping with President (Volodymyr) Zelenskyy's objectives and his leadership, his determination of what is acceptable to the Ukrainian people," Kirby said.

India has repeatedly called on Russia and Ukraine to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue and end their ongoing conflict.

Prime Minister Modi has spoken to the presi-

dents of Russia and Ukraine on multiple occasions and urged for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue for the resolution of the conflict.

In his remarks, Kirby said the single person responsible for what the Ukrainian people are going through is Putin.

"And he could stop it right now. Instead, he's firing cruise missiles into energy and power infrastructure, and trying to knock out the lights and knock out the heat so the Ukrainian people suffer even more than they already have.

"He could end it right now. And since he's not willing to do that, clearly, we've got to make sure we can help the

Ukrainians succeed on the battlefield so that when President Zelenskyy determines it's time to negotiate and he's the only one that can make that determination he can do it with the strongest hand possible," Kirby said.

The ties between India and Russia remained strong notwithstanding Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. India's import of Russian crude oil has gone up significantly in the last few months despite increasing disquiet over it in many Western countries.

India has not yet condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine and it has been maintaining that the crisis must be resolved through diplomacy and dialogue.

Lankas customs seizes over 200 endangered star tortoises



● Being smuggled to Malaysia

Colombo, Feb 12 (PTI):

Sri Lankan customs officers have seized 206 live star tortoises, which are listed as an endangered species, that were being smuggled to Malaysia in boxes labelled as "dried seafood", the largest such capture since 2015.

The Biodiversity, Cultural and National Heritage Protection Division of Sri Lanka customs seized the live tortoises at the Air Cargo Exports Terminal of Colombo international airport on Saturday, a customs release said.

The live tortoises, stuffed inside cloth sacks and packed in six boxes labelled as "dried seafood", were being smuggled out to Kuala Lumpur, it said.

According to the officials, it was the largest seizure since mid-2015 when a bid to smuggle 124 tortoises was foiled.

Sri Lankan star tortoises are the same species (Geochelone elegans) as that found in India and Pakistan but have a specif-

ic geographic identity, the customs officials said.

"It is one of the most beautiful tortoise species found in the world and due to the same reason they have been highly sought after in the illegal pet trade, especially in the South East Asian countries," they said.

"As a result, the species has become threatened with extinction and included in the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of species and also in Appendix I of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)," the officials added.

They said that the according to Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance (section 40), attempt to export any mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, coral or invertebrate, eggs, among others without the permission of the Director General of the Wildlife Conservation Department is an offence and also simultaneously violates the Customs Ordinance.

US fighter shot down object over northern Canada: Trudeau

Ottawa, Feb 12 (AP):

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that on his order a US fighter jet shot down an "unidentified object" that was flying high over the Yukon, acting a day after the US took similar action over Alaska.

North American Aerospace Defense Command, the combined US-Canada organisation that provides a shared defence of airspace over the two nations, said it had detected an object flying at a



high altitude over northern Canada.

It wasn't immediately clear how high up it was flying or what it was.

Trudeau said he also spoke with President Joe Biden, who himself ordered the downing of an unidentified object over remote Alaska on Friday.

A NORAD spokesman, Maj Olivier Gallant, said both Canadian and US jets operating as part of NORAD had been deployed. The jets were scrambled and it was a US jet that shot it down.

While Trudeau described the object as "unidentified," Gallant said the military had determined what it was but would not reveal details.

F-22 fighter jets have now downed three objects in the airspace above the US and Canada over seven days, a stunning development

in the skies that is raising questions on just what, exactly, is hovering overhead and who has sent them.

At least one of the objects downed was believed to be a spy balloon from China, but the other two have not yet been publicly identified. Trudeau said that Canadian forces would recover the wreckage for study. The Yukon where it was shot down is westernmost Canadian territory and the among the least populated part of Canada.

The downing came a day after White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said an object roughly the size of a small car was shot down in remote Alaska. Officials couldn't say if it contained any surveillance equipment, where it came from or what purpose it had.

Kirby said it was shot down because it was flying at about 40,000 feet (13,000 meters) and posed a "reasonable threat" to the safety of civilian flights, not because of

any knowledge that it was engaged in surveillance. According to US Northern Command, recovery operations continued Saturday on sea ice near Deadhorse, Alaska.

In a statement, the Northern Command said there were no new details on what the object was. It said the Alaska Command and the Alaska National Guard, along with the FBI and local law enforcement, were conducting search and recovery.

PLANE-BUS COLLISION



An American Airlines aircraft is damaged after a collision with a passenger bus at Los Angeles International Airport, in Los Angeles. The jet being towed on a taxiway collided with a bus injuring five people. There was no interruption to operations at the airport.

India-Sri Lanka ties guided by PM Modi's Neighbourhood First' policy

Colombo, Feb 12 (PTI):

The partnership between India and Sri Lanka is guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Neighbourhood First' policy. India's Neighbourhood First' policy is an integral component of Indian foreign policy. The policy seeks to build cordial and synergetic relations with India's South Asian neighbours in various areas such as economy, science and technology, research and education, among others. Speaking on the occasion, Wickremesinghe said, "this was a gift given by PM Modi. I should

thank PM Modi and the Indian government. This will remain a main feature of the Indo-Lanka partnership". Prime Minister Modi described the centre as an important initiative and acknowledged the presence of President Wickremesinghe on the occasion. "The Jaffna Cultural Center is an important initiative signifying the close cultural cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. It will benefit several people. The august presence of President Ranil Wickremesinghe made the programme even

more special," Modi tweeted. "I will never forget my special visit to Jaffna in 2015, where I had the opportunity to lay the foundation stone for the Jaffna Cultural Centre," he said in another tweet and shared pictures from his 2015 visit to Jaffna. The centre, whose foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2015, was dedicated to the people of Sri Lanka after a colourful cultural show that projected the diversity and richness of Sri Lankan culture.

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Are earthquakes to hit India, Pakistan soon?

An earthquake of magnitude 4.0 on the Richter scale struck Assam's Nagaon on Sunday. The earthquake occurred at 4.18 pm today. A day before, a tremor of 3.8 magnitude was recorded in Surat district in Gujarat. The tremor was recorded at 12:52 am with its epicentre some 27 kilometres west south west (WSW) of Surat. Are Pakistan and India going to face a devastating earthquake just like Turkey and Syria? And when will it happen? Such rumours are being flooded on Twitter after a Dutch-based researcher—who claimed to have correctly predicted tremors in Turkey, formerly known as Turkey, and Syria—alleged that the Indian subcontinent is next in the line. Frank Hoogerbeets, who according to his bio on Twitter works for the organisation Solar System Geometry Survey (SSGS) in the Netherlands, has foretold that a major earthquake will start in Afghanistan, and end in the Indian Ocean after crossing Pakistan and India. Dutch researcher who anticipated the quake in Turkey and Syria three days ago had also predicted seismic activity anticipating a large size earthquake originating in Afghanistan, through Pakistan and India eventually terminating into the Indian Ocean. In the clip, Hoogerbeets can be heard saying, "These areas could be next candidate for larger seismic activity if we look at the atmospheric fluctuations but again keep in mind that these are rough estimates and not all large earthquakes leave a footprint in the atmosphere they do not always announce themselves". He claims that these estimations are tentative because not all significant earthquakes can be detected by atmospheric fluctuations. Predicting earthquakes is a touchy issue for scientists, in part because it has long been a game of con artists and pseudoscientists who claim to be able to forecast earthquakes. (Their declarations have, of course, withered under scrutiny.) Scientists do have a good sense of where earthquakes could happen. Using historical records and geologic measurements, they can highlight potential seismic hot spots and the kinds of tremors they face. As for when quakes will hit, that's still murky. "Lots of seismologists have worked on that problem for many decades. We're not predicting earthquakes in the short term," said Beroza. "That requires us to know all kinds of information we don't have." It's difficult to figure out when an earthquake will occur, since the forces that cause them happen slowly over a vast area but are dispersed rapidly over a narrow region. What's amazing is that forces built up across continents over millions of years can hammer cities in minutes. Forecasting earthquakes would require high-resolution measurements deep underground over the course of decades, if not longer, coupled with sophisticated simulations. And even then, it's unlikely to yield an hour's worth of lead time. So there are ultimately too many variables at play and too few tools to analyze them in a meaningful way. Some research shows that foreshocks can precede a larger earthquake, but it's difficult to distinguish them from the hundreds of smaller earthquakes that occur on a regular basis. On shorter time scales, texts and tweets can actually race ahead of seismic waves. In the 2011 Tohoku earthquake in Japan, for example, warnings from near the epicenter reached Tokyo 232 miles away, buying residents about a minute of warning time. Many countries are now setting up warning systems to harness modern electronic communications to detect tremors and transmit alerts ahead of shaking ground, buying a few precious minutes to seek shelter. Meanwhile, after a large earthquake, aftershocks often rock the afflicted region. "If we just had a big one, we know there will be smaller ones soon," Denolle said. When it comes to prediction, researchers understandably want to make sure they don't overpromise and underdeliver, especially when thousands of lives and billions of dollars in damages are at stake. But even this caution has had consequences.

Milk prices affecting the budget of common man

Abhijit Roy

The steady increase in milk prices in recent times has affected the average common person's budget. Basically, milk has been a significant part of the diet of every Indian. From young toddlers to elderly people, milk is an indispensable diet. Without milk, everyone's life is lacking, whether they are healthy or ill. Everyone is aware of the fact that large, cooperative firms heavily intervene in the milk industry. As a matter of fact, now nobody denies the existence of widespread interference in the milk industry by large, cooperative firms. The major players in this industry are now in charge of controlling prices. In such circumstances, many Indians find it challenging to purchase milk. This was reportedly the fifth price hike in the previous year when Mother Dairy raised the cost of milk by Rs 2 per litre in December 2022. After then, Amul, a significant cooperative milk manufacturer, raised the price by Rs 3 per litre. Remember that this Gujarat-based company also increased milk prices in November 2022 as well. Regarding Amul's dual pricing strategy, customers have also questioned why prices in Gujarat and the rest of the nation varied. Does this have political ramifications? This must be viewed in light of a product's national acceptability. By the way, the demand and supply imbalance has been blamed for the nationwide rise in milk prices. The rise in the price of cow-buffalo fodder has reduced milk producers' profits. While inflation has affected fodder, due to a shift in farming practices, readily available fodder is now scarce. Previously available for domesticated animals, stubble, etc., is now burned in fields by farmers. In addition, where the companies are blaming the cost increase for the increase in milk prices, the imbalance of demand and supply is also a major factor in the price increase. The new generation's decreasing interests in farming and animal husbandry, as well as the widespread use of cultivable land for commercial purposes, building construction, and other purposes, have resulted in the contraction of agricultural land. This has had an impact on animal husbandry as well. It is estimated that milk and its products account for 20 per cent of the average Indian's monthly food expenditure. This cost rises due to a scarcity of milk in cities compared to villages. Despite the fact that consumption of milk and its byproducts has increased over the past ten years across all societal segments, supply growth has not kept pace. Historically, the death of lakhs of cows due to Lumpy disease in many states has had a significant impact on milk supply. On the other hand, the effect of foot-and-mouth disease has been seen in buffaloes. However, despite the shortfall in production, there is no dearth of milk, its products, or sweets in the market. In such a situation, the question arises, "How is milk flowing in the market?" How has India become the world's largest milk producer today? Does chemically treated and adulterated milk play a major role in this? Anyway, the scale on which the inspection of milk should have been done by the responsible department is not happening. Milk producers have been continuously talking about fodder inflation. By the way, increasing milk production and research in this direction are not being taken seriously at the level of governments.

RELIEF MATERIALS TO TURKEY



Relief materials given by Indians are kept inside the Turkey Embassy, that would be sent to earthquake-hit Turkiye, in New Delhi, Sunday, Feb. 12.

Women Empowerment: Catalyst for Nation's growth



ER. PRABHAT KISHORE



"The world needs strong women. Women who will lift and build others, who will love and be loved. Women who live bravely, both tender and fierce. Women of indomitable will." - Amy Tenney.

In Indian culture and civilization, women receive high recognition and respect. The rivers, which are the lifeline of the people's life, have been termed as the mother and even our country is called "Bharat Mata". Our most of the festivals are based on adoration of Goddesses in various forms. A Dharmashastra reveals "Yatra Naryastu Pujyante, Ramante Tatra Devta; Yatra itastu Na Pujyante, Sarvastatra Falla Kriya"; meaning where women are honoured, dignity blossoms and wherever women are dishonoured, all actions no matter how novel it may be, remains unfruitful. Unfortunately, with span of time, the position of women gradually deteriorated globally and practices of Sati Pratha, infanticide, child marriages, dowry, taboo on women remarriages, Triple talaq, Nikah halala and various other discriminations prevailed in the society.

Numerous reformers, in the country as well as abroad, have struggled for change in such stereotypes and to some extent changes in society have reflected. Mother of Indian feminism and first female teacher of

India Savitri Bai Phule started several schools for women as well as care centre for pregnant rape victims in order to break free from shackles of socially-constructed discriminatory practices. Our constitution provides equal rights to women including equality, dignity and free from discrimination. Various legislations and policies notably Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005, Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act 2019, National Policy for Empowerment of Women 2001, Integrated Child Protection Scheme 2009, National Education Policy 2020 etc. have been enforced against social malpractices to cope up the grimed situation.

Earlier girl's dreams, with just nice groom and fine home, were faced with a life confined within the four walls of their houses. After globalisation and advent of education, they intended to break the barriers & boundaries of four walls, bridge the gaps between their dreams & reality and realized that outside world is so charming and they should fulfill their aspiration to go ahead. Once the women were considered only for child care and household works. Their domestic works have always been undervalued and under-reported. Now the time has changed and

they are being considered part of mainstream workforce. They are playing pivotal role in every sector, whether it be business, politics, social functions, journalism, government jobs etc.

Their contribution is the reflection of gender equality. Target-5 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of United Nations has been specially designed for Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls by year 2030. Empowerment of women means increasing the strength of the woman socially, educationally, economically politically and psychologically. There are 3 Ls of women empowerment which includes Learning, Labour and Leadership. Learning helps woman to get limitless knowledge leading to broaden their thoughts & overcome adversities.

Empowering women by imparting quality education and providing relevant opportunities will lead to their holistic growth & development and disapproving gender bias. There is saying, "Sanskrita Stree Parashakti" meaning an enlightened woman is a source of infinite strength. In education sector, special emphasis have been given to girls education through various central as well as state educational schemes namely Bihar Education Project (BEP), Lok Jumbish, Andhra Pradesh Primary Education Project (APPEP), District Primary Education Project (DPEP), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), Samagra Shiksha (SS), National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL), Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao etc.

According to Mahatma Gandhi, "If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you ed-

ucate an entire family." There is a famous African adage: "If you educate a boy, you train a man. If you educate a girl, you train a village." In social sector, 50% reservation in Panchayat & local body elections, 50% reservation in teachers' recruitment and 35% reservation in government jobs to women in Bihar have led the political and social revolution in the State. Presently, most of the states in India have provided reservations to women in Panchayati Raj Institutions to consciously empower them as decision makers at grass root level. These initiatives have acted as a catalyst for social change. Governments have also launched several schemes for women emancipation and to make them self-reliant. "Vocal for local" campaign will be possible only when women will heartily participate. Similarly, women have to provide systematic skill training, opportunity and support for Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The day to day happening of heinous crimes like gang rape, sexual abuse, acid attacks and domestic violence are stigma on our society. Despite strenuous efforts, such inhuman incidents are occurring frequently; and there is need of stringent punishment to culprits through fast courts. No doubt, the women, as a mother, sister, and wife have sacrificed a lot for our success. But unfortunately, there are some women who are engaged in suppression and discrimination of their female members. The women's day is very apt day to think, analyse and act globally on all those issues, which are responsible for transforming women into a capable human capital through political, social, administrative and economic empowerment.

(Author is a technocrat & educationist. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dr Manmohan Singh on wheelchair in Rajya Sabha

During the proceedings of Rajya Sabha Dr Manmohan Singh was sitting on the wheelchair in the last row and that shows his deep concerns about the strong democratic set up of the country and the country should feel proud of it. Just few days ago Chief Justice India visited the Amrit Udyan along with his two daughters who were on wheelchairs. I sent the representation to Chief Justice of India to request him to take care of disabled and I had sent the representations to previous Chief Justices also. I am a disability activist and do raise the issues of disabled wherever and whenever it is required. Disabled are a harried lot and have to face huge discrimination in every stage of employment whether it is at entry stage of employment or it is the case transfer or it is the case of promotion and even after retirement disabled are not getting full pension and full family pension. Disability act was passed by the parliament in 1996 and again in 2016 but still both these acts had not been implemented meticulously and still vast disparity exists between Able and Disabled. Whereas various court decisions had been delivered against the disparity, it is against the natural justice and also against the NHRC and also against the preamble of constitution and lastly against the weaker sections of society as the entire disabled is covered under weaker sections of society.

Yash Pal Ralhan, Jalandhar

Indian Pathan

So, after a gap of about 4 years, SRK, the Badshah of Hindi movies has hit the silver screen in a movie named PATHAN. Before its release, the said movie faced some protests across the nation due to a particular colour of a bikini worn by its heroine in a scene of the movie. Apart from the colour of the bikini worn by the heroine, that particular shot was totally obscene and all sensible moviegoers of the nation are surprised how that particular shot escaped the censor's scissors as there are many instances in the past when the censor board was found to be very strict in this regard. Before parting may I ask a very simple question to our movie buffs? Will a movie titled INDIAN would have become a super hit in spite of all the masalas as seen in PATHAN in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan? We all know that there are some superstars in Bollywood whose loyalty to the nation is always doubtful. This happens only in India.

Dr Ashim Chowdhury, by mail

The emergence of the Gig Economy in India



Dr. Krishna Kumar Vepakomma

It's remarkable to observe how swiftly the Gig Economy has expanded in India in recent years. As the workforce of today becomes more mobile, there has been a boom in the Gig Economy. The Gig Economy Represents a Vast Range of Industries and Fields looked at breakdowns by gender,

region, education, and whether employees are single or in a relationship. It is frequently referred to as the "sharing economy," and it has been slowly growing as more and more people start working as freelancers or independent contractors. Additionally, it enables remote work in settings with more adaptable schedules.

The result of a gig economy produces cheaper, more efficient and flexible services that can offer consumers a unique and fast alternative to regular, standardized business. In addition, it is solely operated through the internet, making it an extremely popular choice for the younger demographic. One of the main factors contributing to the growth of the gig economy is the increased mobility of today's workforce as a result of the advent of the digital age and the ability to work from any location.

Over the past five years, the gig

economy has gained enormous popularity and is now a highly popular alternative for people to supplement their income. More specifically, 1.6 million workers globally are thought to rely on the gig economy for their income. India currently has 7.7 million gig workers, according to NITI Aayog, and that number is expected to rise to 23.5 million by 2029-2030. "Gig workers" are persons who carry out labor outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship, according to the NITI Report.

The two subgroups of gig workers are workers and non-platform workers. When they interact with customers via online algorithmic matching platforms, such as websites or applications like Amazon or Uber, they are referred to as platform employees. Platform employees play a crucial role in urban India, demonstrating the gig economy's resilience even during the

pandemic. Non-platform employees are the ones who work elsewhere than on these platforms. Construction workers, regular employees, and temporary workers without a technical focus are mainly included in this group.

The government has also been considering methods to expand and assist the gig economy in the nation, and there may soon be a programme to provide loans to gig workers and budding businesses. As more people want to work flexibly, the gig economy is constantly growing. The entire ecosystem can benefit from the government's policies. They are now starting to make use of the talent from many areas, functioning as a catalyst to create this ecosystem more quickly.

The emergence of the gig economy benefits the younger generation of workers considerably by creating new employment options

and different sources of income because gig workers may handle multiple jobs at once. A survey has found that there would likely be 90-110 lakh additions to the gig labor by 2025 as more and more businesses choose to hire workers on a project basis.

This industry has become somewhat more formalized with the rise of app-based models for jobs like delivery and home services. We anticipate this market to expand rapidly in the upcoming years. According to experts, this market will grow greatly and multiply over the next few years.

The key steps that the government must take in order to encourage the growth of platforms and the gig economy are to be taken. To safeguard gig workers and guarantee that businesses are held accountable, the government should develop clear regulations and policies for the gig economy.

BRIEF

Hitachi India

New Delhi: Hitachi India, part of the Japanese conglomerate Hitachi, aims to work towards contributing USD 20 billion in the overall consolidated global revenue for the parent company by 2030 with a 'higher double-digit profit', said Managing Director Bharat Kaushal. By 2030, Hitachi India aims to occupy an "influential position" across rail, energy, and digital, automotive businesses of the group, he said. "Some of the horizontal enablers that support integrating technologies using digital as the catalyst including Artificial Intelligence (AI), hydrogen, and energy storage, will become an important growth driver. We aim to have a higher double-digit profit to the overall Hitachi's consolidated revenues," Kaushal told PTI.

Chemplast Sanmar

Chennai: Chemplast Sanmar Ltd, the flagship company of Sanmar Group has earmarked capital outlay of Rs 680 crore to be spent over the next 15 months towards capacity expansion, the company said on Sunday. The investments include kick starting of the next phase of expansion of its custom manufacturing multi-purpose facility, Chemplast Sanmar Ltd said. Chemplast Sanmar Ltd reported a profit after tax for the quarter ending December 31, 2022 at Rs 27 crore as against Rs 237 crore registered in same quarter of last year.

Nayara Energy

New Delhi: Nayara Energy, India's second largest private oil refining and fuel marketing company, saw its net profit rise by a marginal 2 per cent in the third quarter ended December 31 as the company undertook a month-long maintenance shutdown and windfall tax impacted margins. Net profit of Rs 869.8 crore in October-December compared with Rs 850.3 crore profit in the same period a year back, according to a stock exchange filing by the company. Revenue from operations dropped to Rs 24,757.7 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal from Rs 32,412.9 crore a year back.

ABB India

New Delhi: Electrification and automation major ABB India is expecting that its order book will remain above Rs 10,000 crore and grow further in 2023 in view of momentum in the market, says a top company official. ABB India achieved a significant milestone in order booking by reaching Rs 10,028 crore in calendar year 2022 and Rs 2,335 crore in the fourth quarter (October-December) of 2022. Talking to PTI, country head and managing director of ABB India Sanjeev Sharma said, "Our target is not to fall below Rs 10,000 crore order book where we reached today."

No power can become hurdle between UP and development: Goyal

Lucknow, Feb 12 (PTI):

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Sunday said under the able leadership of Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is moving forward and no power can become a hurdle between the state and development.

He was addressing a session on excise and sugar industry at the UP Global Investors Summit-2023 here.

"There is a wave of development in Uttar Pradesh, and it can be experienced in this meet. Under the able leadership of Yogi Adityanath, Uttar Pradesh is moving, and no power can become a hurdle between Uttar Pradesh and development," Goyal said.

He also said that until Prime Minister Narendra Modi is personally satisfied, he does not allow ministers to make any promises with the people



and that the prime minister promotes competition in the federal structure. Goyal also said that in the past six years despite the COVID-19 pandemic, UP's excise collection increased from Rs 14,500 crore to Rs 42,500 crore.

The minister highlighted that people of Australia are now becoming dependent on India for wine. Foreigners are liking the wine which is manufactured in India, he said, and added that apart from grapes, 27 other fruits are being used to manufacture liquor and wine. He added that commitment of in-

vestment worth crores of rupees for Uttar Pradesh symbolises the fact that the people know that the law and order will boost the industry, and there is no fear, while working.

"Investors are coming from different parts of the world to Uttar Pradesh. They are also reposing faith in the people of UP that they will vote for the decisive leadership of a double-engine government both in the state and in the country, which will take UP ahead on the path of development," Goyal said.

HE holds the portfolios of Minister of Commerce & Industry; Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution and Textiles. The Union Minister said that six years ago, UP was lagging behind in terms of ease of doing business, and today, it is number two in the country.

Merger of 7 subsidiaries with Tata Steel to complete by FY24: CEO Narendran

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

The merger of 7 subsidiary companies with Tata Steel is expected to be completed in 2023-24 fiscal year, its CEO and managing director T V Narendran said.

In September 2022, Tata Steel board had approved a proposal to merge six of its subsidiaries into itself for greater synergies, higher efficiency and reduce costs.

"We had already announced (merger of) 6 companies earlier. (Merger of) one more Angul Energy we announced recently," he told PTI in reply to a question on the timeline for the merger.



However, the completion of the merger depends on the regulatory processes including NCLT clearances, post which the process is expected to be completed in the next financial year, the CEO said.

"We are dependent on the speed at which we can go through our regulatory requirements," he added. Besides Angul Energy,

the six subsidiaries to be merged with Tata Steel are Tata Steel Long Products (TSPL), The Timplate Company of India, Tata Metaliks, TRF, Indian Steel & Wire Products, and Tata Steel Mining and S&T Mining Company.

When asked about plans of merging recently acquired NINL into Tata Steel, the CEO said there are no such immediate plans.

"As per the terms of purchase with the government, the company is committed to run the new asset as a separate legal entity for three years..after that we can decide what is best for NINL," he said.

GEM opens new outlet

Mumbai, Feb 12:

Godawari Electric Motors, maker of Eblu range of products inaugurated its first showroom Dream Vision in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Backed by world-class technology, the showroom offers customers a differentiating EV buying experience and enhances awareness about EV adoption in the region.

The showroom was inaugurated by B.L Agrawal, CMD, Hira Group. The showroom is spread across 1440 sq. ft., equipped with a 720 sq. ft. service centre facility, and is located at Ashoka Millennium Plaza, Shop No. 3, 4, 5, & 6, Ring Road No.-1, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001.

The key USP of this showroom will be that

customers will have access to 3S facilities offered by Godawari Electric Motors. The showroom will also showcase the journey of the brand and become a single touch point for the end-to-end EV needs of the customers.

Hyder Khan, CEO, Godawari Electric Motors, said, "The inauguration of a new Godawari Electric Motors showroom in Raipur brings us a step closer to the people of Chhattisgarh, helping us collectively pursue the transition to electric mobility with our recently launched Eblu range. We look forward to establishing several new sub-dealers in the region to accelerate EV adoption as we aim to guarantee an inclusive, sustainable and better future for all."

Norway supports India's initiative on multilateralism & rule-based trade: Trade Minister

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Norway's Trade and Investment Minister Jan Christian Vestre has stated that his country fully supports India's efforts in promoting multilateralism and a rules-based trade system.

The minister praised the Indian government's leadership at the G-20 and highlighted the importance of continuing the process of globalization.

"That's an initiative our government supports 100 per cent and we also appreciate your leadership at G-20 and that you are so focused on multilateralism and that we need rules-based trade system," Vestre said in an interview with PTI. The Norwegian minister, who was here on

FPIs' exodus continues; take out Rs 9,600 cr from equities in Feb

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Foreign investors continue to desert Indian stock markets as they pulled out over Rs 9,600 crore this month so far on costlier valuation of domestic equities compared to other emerging markets. The outflow comes following a net withdrawal of Rs 28,852 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in January. This was also the worst outflow in the last seven months, data with the depositories showed. Prior to that, they made a net investment of Rs 11,119 crore in December and Rs 36,238 crore in November. Going ahead, FPIs flow are expected to remain volatile as Indian equities given the increase in rate by central banks, Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research (Retail), Kotak Securities, said.

Hyundai aims to tap rising demand for aspirational models in rural areas

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Hyundai Motor India is looking to tap growth opportunities in the rural areas with rise in demand for aspirational products like sports utility vehicles and feature-rich models, according to company's Chief Operating Officer Tarun Garg.

The country's second largest carmaker is looking to enhance presence in the smaller towns and rural areas with more sales outlets and also initiatives like deployment of mobile service vans.

The automaker's sales outlets in the rural areas have crossed the 600-mark already and it has also increased its manpower to over 5,000 people in such places. Hyundai's sales in



Hyundai Motor India's Chief Operating Officer Tarun Garg.

the rural areas has crossed the one lakh-mark last year. "Almost 18 per cent of our sales are now coming from rural areas. It used to be about 16.5 per cent. So, we have improved on that front. We touched one lakh retails for the first time last year. We now also have 100 mo-

bile service vans in the rural areas," Garg told PTI in an interaction.

With information about various products readily available now via cell phones and improvement in the road infrastructure, the demand for products that are up in the value chain has gone up in the hinterlands, he said.

"The divide between urban and rural is actually reducing, because so many people are now using data and mobile phones, which means that access to information is also very high," Garg said. The other thing which has happened is that earlier rural markets preferred smaller cars but now there is a huge demand for products like Creta, Venue as well, he noted.

India's toy exports touch Rs 1,017 cr during Apr-Dec this fiscal

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

The country's toy exports have touched Rs 1,017 crore during April-December period this fiscal, according to the government data. In 2021-22, the exports stood at Rs 2,601 crore.

"Made in India toys continue to tap global markets! India's toy exports rose to more than 6 times in April-December 2022 as compared to the same period in 2013," commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said in a tweet.

During April-December 2013-14, the shipments were at Rs 167 crore.

The government is taking steps to promote domestic manufacturing and exports of toys from

the country and reduce imports from countries like China, which are of low quality.

In 2018-19, toys worth Rs 2,960 crore were imported into India. With the philosophy of 'vocal for local', the government took several steps to promote indigenous toys designed on Indian culture and history.

The overall import of toys in India reduced by 70 per cent to Rs 870 crore in 2021-22.

In February 2020, import duty on toys was raised from 20 per cent to 60 per cent and now this year to 70 per cent, with an aim to discourage imports. The government is also considering rolling out a fiscal incentive scheme — PLI — for toys.

UP to soon have maximum number of domestic flights in India: Jyotiraditya Scindia



Lucknow, Feb 12 (PTI):

Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said Uttar Pradesh will soon have the maximum number of domestic flight services in the country. Addressing a session on "Civil Aviation in Uttar Pradesh: The Emerging

Opportunities" on the second day of the three-day Uttar Pradesh Global Investors Summit-2023 at Vrindavan Yojna here, Scindia said, "Uttar Pradesh will soon become the number one state with the maximum number of domestic flights." He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath have rejuvenated the country and Uttar Pradesh, a state that had only two airports earlier and which has nine operational airports now.

Scindia said the land of Ayodhya, Kashi (Varanasi) and Mathura has always shown a new path to the country.

Describing Uttar Pradesh as a favourable destination for investment, he said the state has made great strides in every field. Ten new airports are being built in the state and the land survey work has started for two more, Scindia said, adding that Uttar Pradesh is going to have 21 airports in the coming days.

Milwaukee (US), Feb 12 (API):

A rare Harley-Davidson motorcycle built in 1908 has become the most expensive motorcycle ever sold at auction, according to data compiled by a website that tracks vintage motorcycle sales.

The Strap Tank Harley-Davidson was recorded on vintagent.com as being sold for USD 935,000 after auction fees last month at the Mecum Auction in Las Vegas, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Friday.

The bike was named Strap Tank because its oil and fuel tanks are attached to the frame with nickel straps. The bike is believed to be one of only



12 such models in the world. A 1907 Strap Tank sold for USD 715,000 after fees but didn't go for as much as the record-setting 1908 Strap Tank because it was never restored. The record-breaking

bike had many of its original parts, making it even more rare, said Greg Arnold, Motorcycle Division Manager at Mecum Auctions.

"We marketed the bike well and Harley is by far

the most famous American motorcycle brand so we had a feeling it would do well in auction, but obviously you are surprised anytime you sell the most expensive bike ever," he said.

Vasavada guides Saurashtra to Ranji Trophy final



Saurashtra team coach Sitanshu Kotak, captain Arpit Vasavada with players celebrate after the team wins the 2nd semi final of Ranji Trophy match against Karnataka, at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, Sunday.

Bengaluru, Feb 12 (PTI):

Saurashtra secured a place in the Ranji Trophy final for the fifth time in the history of the tournament, defeating Karnataka by four wickets at the Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday. The 2019-20 edition champions scored the required 115 runs for victory on the fifth and final day of the semifinal match to set up a title showdown with

Bengal. It will be a repeat of the 2019-20 summit clash, where Bengal had finished second best. Saurashtra skipper Arpit Vasavada, following his match-altering double century in the first innings that helped the team to a mammoth 527, played another polished knock of unbeaten 47 just when the Karnataka bowlers had reduced the team to 42/5 in the second innings. With Karnataka looking

Brief Scores	
Karnataka 407 and 234 (Mayank Agarwal 55, Nikin Jose 109; Chetan Sakariya 4/45, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja 4/79, Parth Bhut 2/57) lost to Saurashtra 527 and 117/6 in 34.2 overs (Arpit Vasavada 47; Krishnappa Gowtham 3/38, Vasuki Koushik 3/32) by four wickets.	

poised to defend a paltry 100-plus total on home turf

and Krishnappa Gowtham (3/38) and Vasuki Koushik (3/32) on fire, the 34-year-old Vasavada remained calm under trying circumstances to guide his side to a hard-fought win in 34.2 overs. Karnataka, whose first innings had folded up at 407 after which Saurashtra slammed 527 to take the crucial first-innings lead, started day five at 123/4 with their in-form batter Nikin Jose on 54.

Ind vs Aus third Test set to be shifted out of Dharamsala: BCCI sources

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

The third Test of the ongoing series between India and Australia scheduled to be played in Dharamsala from March 1 to 5 is all set to be shifted to another venue as the railed outfield is not match ready, according to BCCI sources. It is understood that BCCI curator Taposh Chatterjee visited the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium to inspect the pitch and the outfield. He will submit his report to the top brass of the BCCI for a final call. Bengaluru and Visakhapatnam are among the venues where the third Test can be shifted to. "There are certain BCCI parameters that one needs to fit in in order to host the match. No competitive game has been played on this ground and also the outfield isn't ready," a senior BCCI source said. While 16 days are left for the match to begin, weather in Dharamsala can also play spoilsport as back-to-back international games there were washouts. The outfield has bald areas and forecast of rain in next few days could halt the work under progress. "We have told that given a chance we would like to host the game but it's up to the BCCI to decide. The curator's report would be based on parameters," a HPCA source privy to development said.

I'm confident and positive, says fit-again Sindhu



New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Completely recovered from a stress fracture on the left foot that kept her away from the circuit for five months, a fit-again Indian shuttler PV Sindhu is confident and sounding positive ahead of the ongoing season. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, said her injury has "completely healed" and is aiming to go full throttle this year. Sindhu was sidelined with injury after winning the Commonwealth Games women's singles gold in Birmingham in

body healthy and come back stronger every time. I am confident, positive and learning from my mistakes," the 27-year-old told Badminton World Federation. "My parents were athletes too. The support and motivation they give me keep me going during low moments." Sindhu, who bagged three titles -- Syed Modi India International, Swiss Open and Singapore Open last year -- hopes to replicate her success at the HSBC BWF World Tour this season. "I hope it will be," said the world No.9 shuttler. "You also have to be 100 per cent but I'm completely recovered now. It takes time to get into that rhythm and play tournament matches. I'm on track." Along with Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy, Sindhu will spearhead India's challenge at the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships starting Tuesday in Dubai. India, who did not make the knockout stages at the previous edition in 2019 in Hong Kong, have been drawn in Group B along side hosts UAE, frontrunners Malaysia and Kazakhstan.

Nagpur Test exposed Australia's weakness against spin, need to adapt quickly: Ian Chappell



New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

The legendary Ian Chappell feels Australia's capitulation in the first Test against India has exposed their frailties against spin, and said the touring Pat Cummins-led side needs to adapt to the conditions quickly. He asked Australia to stop thinking about pitches in India and just concentrate on their job. Spin duo of

Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja bamboozled Australia on a typical red-soil wicket as the visitors crumbled to their lowest total in India -- 91 -- to suffer an innings defeat inside three days in Nagpur on Saturday. "The first Test has exposed Australia's weakness against good spin bowling on turning pitches," the former Australian captain wrote in his column for ESPNcricinfo. "If they can ensure this setback doesn't mean their mental capacity to cope in India is not dented, it will keep them in the series. If they waver, they are in big trouble," Chappell added. India faced typical pitch doctoring allegations in the build-up to the Nagpur Test but the Australian batting great opined that it was "by no means impossible to play on."

Fit-again Afridi to lead defending champions Lahore in PSL



Islamabad, Feb 12 (AP):

Shaheen Shah Afridi will stage a comeback to competitive cricket after three months out with a freak knee injury to lead defending champions Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League, beginning from Monday. Afridi led Lahore to its maiden PSL title last year in Pakistan's premier domestic Twenty20 tournament that has once again attracted several foreign T20 specialists in a six-team event also featuring two-time champions Islamabad United and past winners Multan Sultans, Karachi Kings, Quetta Gladiators and Peshawar Zalmi.

Real Madrid beats Al-Hilal 5-3 to win 8th Club World Cup

Rabat (Morocco), Feb 12 (AP):

Vincius Junior scored twice and assisted Karim Benzema to lead Real Madrid to its record-extending eighth Club World Cup title by beating Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal 5-3. Federico Valverde added two more goals for the European champions in a final that turned into a shootout on Saturday. Al-Hilal never led but showed it was no fluke that it upset Brazil's Flamengo to reach the decider in Morocco's capital. Vincius has been the target of racist slurs in the Spanish league and even had his effigy hung from a bridge, but has not let that negatively impact his performances. The Brazil forward, who scored the only goal when Madrid beat Liverpool in last season's Champions League final, leads Madrid with 16 across all competi-



Real Madrid players celebrate with the trophy after winning the FIFA Club World Cup final match against Al Hilal at Prince Moulay Abdellah stadium in Rabat, Morocco.

tions. Vincius opened the scoring in the 13th minute and curled home Madrid's fifth and final goal in the 69th. "Vincius has been improving since last season just as the team has also grown. We won the Champions League and now the world title, and

Head may replace Warner in Delhi Test

Sydney, Feb 12 (PTI):

Smarting from a humiliating defeat in the series-opening first Test against India in Nagpur, Australia may replace struggling David Warner with off-spin all-rounder Travis Head in the second match in New Delhi starting February 17, Australian media reported on Sunday. Australia's aspiration to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy suffered a big blow after the visitors lost the Nagpur Test by an innings and 132 runs inside three days on Saturday. Seasoned opener Warner's poor form in the subcontinent continued as he got out for 1 and 10 in the two innings as Australia struggled to get a good start and were bowled out for 91 in the second essay, their lowest total in India. "Sources close to the Australian team confirmed those dis-



cussions were continuing after Warner's double failure in the first Test," reported 'Sydney Morning Herald'. It further added that left-arm finger spinner Matt Kuhnemann also has a "chance" to make his Test debut in New Delhi after being summoned to India as a replacement for reserve leg-spinner Mitch Swepson. Swepson is returning home for the birth of his child.

Australia rout NZ by 97 runs

Begin T20 Women's World Cup title defence in style

Paarl (SA), Feb 12 (PTI):

Australia began their Women's T20 World Cup title defence on a resounding note with a comfortable 97-run win over Trans-Tasman rivals New Zealand here. Alyssa Healy made 55, her highest score in the format since the 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup Final, while captain Meg Lanning (41) and Ellyse Perry (40) also contributed with the bat as Australia racked up a competitive 173 for nine after being asked to bat on Saturday. New Zealand endured a forgetful start as Suzie Bates was dismissed with the first ball of their reply and then kept losing wickets in a heap to be bowled out for 76 in 14 overs. Gardner was the chief destroyer with a sublime spell of 5/12, her best T20I bowling figures, as the five-time champions started off with a dominant victory. Beth Mooney only lasted two balls as she poked unconvincingly at Lea Tahuhu



and Eden Carson flew to her right to pouch a stunning catch at backward point. Healy and Lanning clubbed together and guided Australia to 47 for one from six overs, their best-ever powerplay score against New Zealand at the T20 World Cup. They assembled a 70-run stand for the second wicket until Amelia Kerr tucked up Lanning and she was bowled playing a cut shot to

a straight delivery. Tahuhu found Gardner's leading edge in the next over; Carson taking a simple catch to make it 76 for three. Healy and Perry took over, and raced to a 50 partnership in just 28 balls. Healy perished when she was deceived by Tahuhu's slower ball and caught on the fence. Perry and Grace Harris' 8-ball 22-run partnership promised fireworks but fizzled out when the latter was

run out on 14. Perry kept swinging, lifting Amelia Kerr over the cover boundary, but she was dismissed a ball later and then Jess Jonassen departed for a two-ball duck in the same over. There was a late flurry of wickets as Alana King and Tahlia McGrath came and went in the last two overs. The start of the Kiwi reply was a surreal one. Megan Schutt bowled five wides with the first ball and with

Brief Scores	
Australia 173 for nine in 20 overs (Alyssa Healy 55, Ellyse Perry 40; Amelia Kerr 3/23, Lea Tahuhu 3/37) beat New Zealand 76 all out in 14 overs (Amelia Kerr 21, Bernadine Beuzidenhout 14; Ashleigh Gardner 5/12, Megan Schutt 2/8).	

the second, bowled Bates who went down for an improbable scoop. Both openers were dismissed within the over as skipper Sophie Devine was trapped LBW. Bernadine Beuzidenhout and Amelia Kerr briefly stabilised the innings. Beuzidenhout reverse swept Jonassen to the fence before departing for 14, caught by Darcie Brown off Perry. The White Ferns sunk to 37 for four after Maddy Green was run out. Kerr was the next to go, bowled by Gardner. The slide continued as Hayley Jensen chipped tamely to midwicket before Tahuhu and Rowe were accounted for by Gardner in quick succession. New Zealand lost three wickets for four runs in 11 balls with Gardner taking the final two wickets in the 14th over.

PSG lose again to Monaco on eve of Bayern Munich visit

Paris, Feb 12 (AP):

A weakened Paris Saint-Germain lost a second straight game in all competitions to Monaco 3-1 in the French league, three days before facing Bayern Munich. Monaco climbed to third place, seven points behind a rattled PSG, whose lead was cut to five points after second-placed Marseille beat Clermont 2-0. Undefeated in all competitions from August to December, PSG has become fragile. It lost to Lens and Rennes in the league last month and was knocked out by Marseille in the last 16 of the French Cup on Wednesday. "We have conceded a lot of goals since the restart of the season," PSG coach Christophe Galtier said on Saturday. "We must rediscover our balance, defensively." Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe were out injured but Neymar played. Bayern comes on Tuesday for the first leg in the Champions League round of 16. Wissam Ben Yedder scored twice for Monaco. His blocked shot rebounded for Aleksandr Golovin to beat



Monaco's French forward Wissam Ben Yedder (R) celebrates with team mates after scoring a goal during the French L1 football match between Monaco and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) at the Louis II stadium in Monaco.

PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma in the fourth minute. Ben Yedder doubled the lead in the 18th as Monaco pressed high up the

pitch. Krepin Diatta disposed El Chadaille Bitshiabu and Ben Yedder buried an angled strike into the far corner.

INT'L CRAFTS MELA



A stall at the 36th Surajkund International Crafts Mela, in Faridabad, Saturday.

50 % of Indore residents suffering from some ailment

HEALTH SURVEY
Indore, Feb 12 (PTI): At least half the population of Indore in Madhya Pradesh, adjudged several times as the cleanest city in the country, is afflicted with some ailment as per a survey carried out over the past two months.

The report of the survey helmed by the Indian Medical Association's Indore Chapter and the Red Cross Society will be handed over to civic authorities for further action and remedial measures, local Bharatiya Janata Party Lok Sabha MP Shankar Lalwani told reporters on Saturday. "Nearly one lakh persons were checked at

394 health camps organised in 42 places in the city. The reports of half the persons surveyed were found to be abnormal, the conclusion being made on the basis of eight biomedical scales," Lalwani said.

"Around 48 per cent residents had some abnormality in one test, 9.5 per cent had enhanced blood sugar levels, 17 per cent had high cholesterol levels, 6 per cent had abnormal SGPT, which hints at liver ailments, while 13 per cent had abnormal serum protein levels suggesting low immunity," Lalwani said. The middle class was more affected with such ailments than those from the upper and lower income groups, he added.

Pak's pavilion at Int'l tourism event piques curiosity of visitors

Noida, Feb 12 (PTI):

The presence of Pakistan's pavilion to promote the country at an international travel and tourism event held in Greater Noida near Delhi piqued the curiosity of several visitors.

People mostly enquired about the country's tourist destinations, tourism potential and cultural heritage, said an official at the Pakistan pavilion at the SCO Tourism Mart.

Part of the Shanghai Corporation Organisation (SCO), Pakistan and several other countries showcased their tourism products as well as cultural heritage at the event held as part of activities under

India's presidency of the grouping. The Tourism Mart, organised by the South Asia's Travel and Tourism Exchange (SATTE), was inaugurated by Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy on February 9 and it culminated on February 11.

The international event as part of SATTE's 30th edition saw the participation of around 50 countries, including China and Pakistan, and 28 states of India.

India holds the presidency of the SCO for the year 2023 and as part of tourism track activities, the Union Ministry of Tourism has planned various events and meetings, according to officials.

These activities included the SCO Tourism Mart organised as part of SATTE from February 9 to February 11.

The officials said that a SCO Expert Level Tourism Working Group Meeting and a SCO Tourism Minister's Meeting in Varanasi from February 13 to February 17, and a SCO Food Festival in Mumbai from April 13 to April 19 are also part of the activities.

During a press interaction, Yogesh Mudras, managing director for Informa Markets in India, which organised SATTE, said, "It (the Pakistan pavilion) was present as part of the SCO Tourism Mart."

PTI, Pandey recalled, "About seven years ago, a woman was begging outside the Lucknow railway station. I did not pay attention to her initially, but she started crying saying she was hungry. So I took her to a food cart, where she ate six to seven 'puris'. She was really very hungry."

"That day I was travelling to Delhi and on the way, I kept thinking about that woman. On returning from Delhi, I started feeding the hungry with help from some of my friends on February 6, 2016. This led to the establishment of the Indian Roti Bank," he added.

Pandey said initially, some local officials en-

couraged him and then with the help of his friends, he started distributing 'rotis' to the hungry.

People kept joining the campaign and after some time, Roti Bank Farrukhabad was started with the slogan 'Khao Piyo, Raho Aabad-Roti Bank Farrukhabad', he said. The movement then continued to grow.

Pandey said the IRB now has branches in more than 100 districts in 14 states and has been successful in providing food to about 12 lakh people.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, IRB volunteers showed their commitment to provide food to the people and it was greatly ap-

preciated, he added. "My dream is to open a unit of Roti Bank in every district of India. We have more than 100 units working in the country now," Pandey said.

Talking about how the IRB works, he said volunteers collect rotis from families and prepare the vegetables, and pack four rotis with a portion of the vegetables, pickles and chilly. These packets are then distributed to beggars and the hungry and needy at railway stations, bus stations, and public places, Pandey added. Volunteers distribute these roti packets on cycles, motorcycles and vehicles.

21 lakh diyas to be lit in Ujjain On Mahashivratri

Bhopal, Feb 12 (PTI): Nearly 21 lakh earthen lamps will be lit on February 18 in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain city as part of the 'Shiv Jyoti Arpanam-2023' programme to mark the festival of Mahashivratri, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said. On Mahashivratri last year, 11,71,078 earthen lamps were lit in Ujjain. Now, an attempt will be made to set a Guinness world record by lighting 21 lakh lamps, government officials said. After a meeting held on Saturday to review preparations for the mega event, CM Chouhan in a statement said the festival of Mahashivratri will be celebrated in Ujjain like Diwali on February 18.

"On Mahashivratri, residents of Ujjain will express their dedication to Lord Mahakal by lighting 21 lakh lamps. This unprecedented event will be possible only with the participation of the society and the government," Chouhan stated. Officials informed in the meeting that under the Shiv Jyoti Arpanam programme in Ujjain, earthen lamps will be lit in the city's temples, commercial places, homes, besides the banks of the Kshipra River and important intersections and spots. The prominent places in Ujjain will be lit with electrical decorations and rangoli (colourful patterns), the officials said.

UTTARAKHAND PAPER LEAK CASES

'No other CM brought cheating mafia to book'

Dehradun, Feb 12 (PTI):

The Uttarakhand government has acted "boldly" against the "cheating mafia" by bringing a strict anti-copying law and sending those guilty to jail, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said on Sunday, hitting out at those blaming him for a series of recruitment exam question paper leaks.

"It is 22 years since the creation of Uttarakhand. Those opposing me should ask themselves which chief minister sent people involved in paper leak cases to jail. Which chief minister brought the sternest anti-copying law in the country," Dhami said after in-



Pushkar Singh Dhami

acted "boldly against the cheating mafia by sending 60 of them behind bars and introducing the country's sternest anti-copying law". People must ask themselves which government showed the courage to lay its hands on the "cheating mafia", Dhami said.

The chief minister said a severe anti-copying law has been brought into force in the state and it has a provision for maximum sentence of life imprisonment for those indulging in or facilitating use of unfair means in recruitment examinations. It also has a provision for a fine of up to Rs 10 crore, he said. "Did any other government show this courage?" Dhami asked.

inaugurating a games and cultural festival at the Kalsi area in Dehradun district.

He said that he was advised not to attend the function on Sunday as he could face opposition. Nevertheless, the chief minister said, he decided to come as he knew he

SAND ART WITH A DIFFERENCE



Sand art of Taj Mahal with the logo of G20 has been made on the bank of the River Yamuna, in Agra, Sunday.

Sea of saffron at event to kick off 200th birth anniv celebrations

Of Dayanand Saraswati

New Delhi, Feb 12 (PTI):

Sporting saffron headgears and scarves, people of all ages have gathered in large numbers at an event here to mark the beginning of year-long celebrations commemorating the 200th birth anniversary of social reformer Dayanand Saraswati.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the celebrations at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium on Sunday. He also unveiled a logo for the anniversary celebrations at the event, being described as 'Gyan Jyoti Parv'. The



PM Modi during the inauguration of the year-long celebrations to mark the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, in New Delhi, Sunday.

gathering of Saraswati's followers, most of them wearing saffron headgears and scarves bearing Vedic texts, virtually turned the stadium into a sea of saffron as chants of sacred mantras reverberated around the venue. An exhibi-

tion on the social reformer's legacy and the institutions established guided by Saraswati's vision is also being hosted on the stadium premises. Born in 1824, Saraswati worked to counter the social inequities prevalent at the

time. Arya Samaj has played a key role in the country's cultural and social awakening with its emphasis on social reforms and education, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement on Saturday. During a meeting

in January, Modi called upon academic and cultural institutions across the country to produce well-researched work on the contributions of the great visionary and social reformer, as well as the Arya Samaj - which will complete 150 years of existence in 2025.

Saraswati founded the Arya Samaj in 1875. Modi, who arrived at the venue around 11 am, was welcomed on the dais by chants of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and invoking the name of Saraswati. Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy, and ministers of state for culture Meenakshi Lekhi and Arjun Ram Meghwal shared the dais with Modi and the other dignitaries.

Women spend 7.2 hrs on unpaid domestic work compared to 2.8 hrs spent by men

Ahmedabad, Feb 12 (PTI):

Women in the working age category of 15 to 60 years spend 7.2 hours on unpaid domestic work compared to 2.8 hours spent by men, indicating they have "time poverty", as

per a research conducted by a professor from the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad. Even wage-earning women spend twice the amount of time on unpaid domestic work in comparison to wage-earning men in fulfilling basic needs of the household such as cleaning, preparing meals and caregiving, says

the research which is based on the Time Use Survey (TUS) of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

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